PARIS ATTACKS: ROCK REACTS

ANGER HURT DEFIANCE

KERRANG!

EXCLUSIVE

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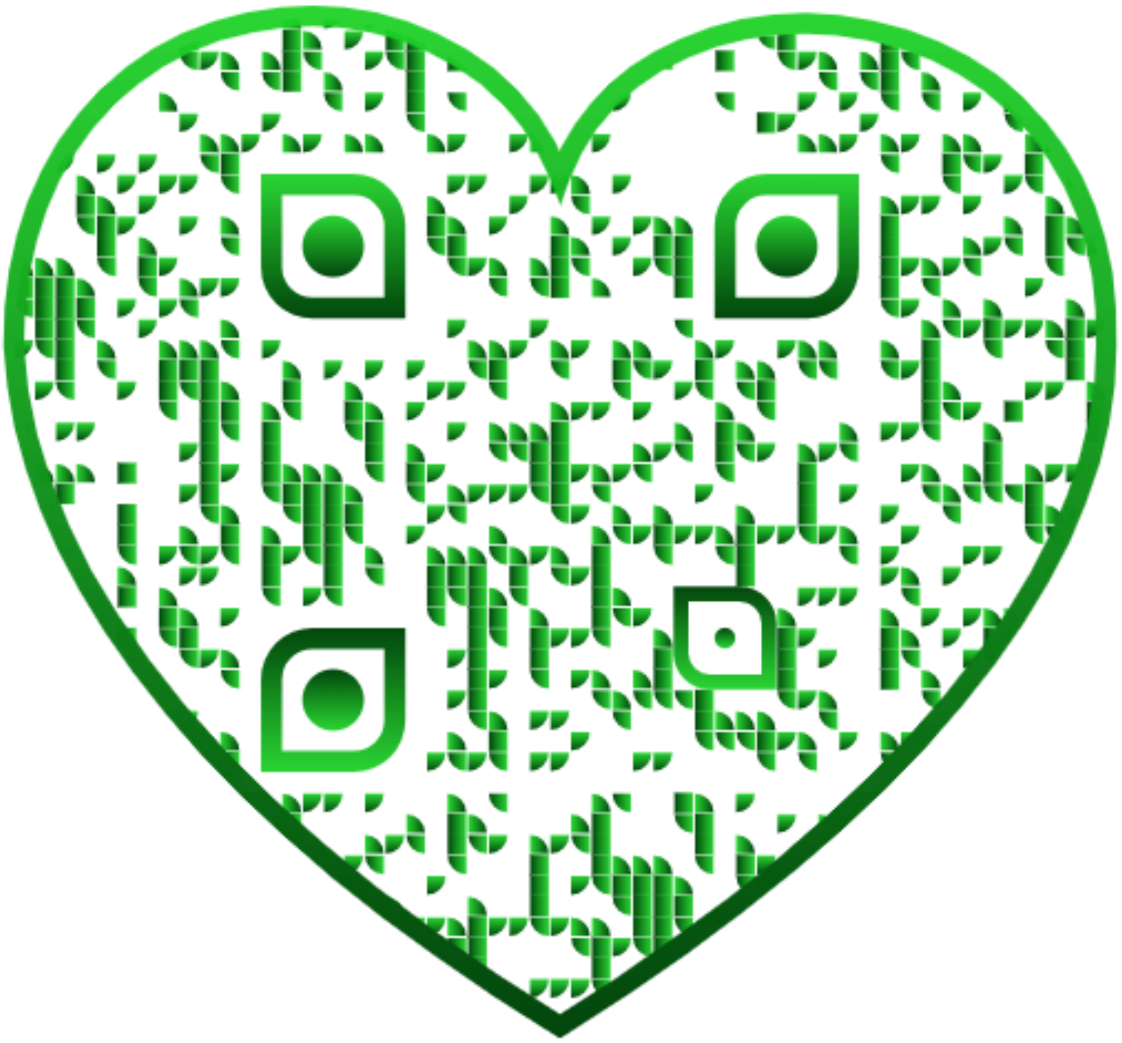

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ISSUE 1596 NOV 28, 2015

HELLO, READERS. These are undoubtedly times of great tragedy, and while I only have a hundred or so words to fill, I can't think of anything to say here that will come close to articulating the fog of misery that currently hangs over our scene. On p4 we pay our respects to those who went to a rock show and lost their lives at the Bataclan on Friday, November 13. Then, on p10, we report on the horrific bus crash that, at the time of Kerrang! going to press, has left devastation in the ranks of The Ghost Inside. Elsewhere, there's the usual rock mayhem you'd expect from an issue of Kerrang!. At times like these we should remember, nothing will *ever* stop rock.

James
Editor

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NEWS

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PARIS

THE ROCK WORLD MOURNS

WE REFLECT ON THE FRENCH TERRORIST ATTACKS THAT LEFT THE ROCK COMMUNITY GRIEVING, DEVASTATED, UNITED AND DEFIANT…

A floral tribute outside Le Bataclan

Nick Alexander: may he rest in peace

NEARLY TWO WEEKS ON, the world is still struggling to comprehend the terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris on the night of November 13. The string of coordinated, simultaneously executed incidents – branded an attack on "all of humanity" by U.S. President Barack Obama – included a horrific assault on the Eagles Of Death Metal gig being held at the Parisian venue Le Bataclan.

Just after 9pm local time, seven songs into EODM's set, Islamic State (IS) gunmen, armed with AK-47s and grenades, stormed the gig. By the time a police siege brought the hostage situation to an end, there would be at least 89 dead music fans and over 200 more injured.

Today, the traumatic aftershocks of that night continue to register their effect in a variety of ways.

The rock community remains in a state of mourning. The first Briton identified in the death toll was 36-year-old Nick Alexander of Colchester, who was hired as EODM's merchandise manager for the Zipper Down tour. With a vast amount of tour experience working for the likes of Panic! At The Disco, Sum 41, Trivium and Alice In Chains, he was an individual that truly lived for music.

"It is with huge sorrow that we can confirm that our beloved Nick lost his life at the Bataclan last night," read a family statement, released over the weekend of the tragedy. "Nick was not just our brother, son and uncle; he was everyone's best friend – generous, funny and fiercely loyal. Nick died doing the job he loved and we take great comfort in knowing how much he was cherished by his friends around the world. Thank you for your thoughts and respect for our family at this difficult time. Peace and light."

It was the first of many public tributes to Nick.

Sum 41 singer/guitarist Deryck Whibley expressed his sadness over losing the friend he was hoping to see during his band's upcoming time on next year's Kerrang! Tour.

"I've been at a loss for words since we all heard the news of the attacks in Paris," he commented. "France has always been a second home to Sum 41 and we have always loved the time we've spent there. It's heartbreaking not being able to see Nick Alexander again. We were looking forward to seeing him soon on the upcoming K! Tour in the new year and he is deeply missed by all of us. We have a lot of great memories that we'll cherish forever, like [a] photo of him dressed in the Sum 41 crew uniform… the only time I've ever seen him not dressed in his signature leather jacket and jeans. It brings a smile to my face remembering him like this."

Further tributes, which continued to pour in from around the world, all paid respect to a hard-working professional and music-lover taken well before his time.

"Nick Alexander was one of the family," remembers Frank Turner. "By that I mean the road crew, the close-knit, dedicated and unsung group of people who look after bands around the world and enable them to do what they do. He was also a friend of mine, a wonderfully warm and kind human being. He will be sorely missed."

Panic! At The Disco frontman Brendon Urie also looked back fondly on the time he spent with Nick.

"Even though I only knew [him] for a short

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA

Though one half of EODM's recording line-up, Josh Homme was not on this tour

EODM'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT

"While the band is now home safe, we are horrified and still trying to come to terms with what happened in France. Our thoughts and hearts are first and foremost with our brother Nick Alexander, our record company comrades Thomas Ayad, Marie Mosser and Manu Perez, and all the friends and fans whose lives were taken in Paris, as well as their friends, families and loved ones.

Although bonded in grief with the victims, the fans, the families, the citizens of Paris, and all those affected by terrorism, we are proud to stand together, with our new family, now united by a common goal of love and compassion. We would like to thank the French police, the FBI, the U.S. and French State Departments, and especially all those at ground zero with us who helped each other as best they could during this unimaginable ordeal, proving once again that love overshadows evil.

All EODM shows are on hold until further notice. Vive la musique, vive la liberté, vive la France, and vive EODM."

amount of time, it was easy to see why he's touched so many lives in our touring family," the frontman's statement read. "It's not every day you see someone who's not only good at what they do, but also loves what they do. His smile and positive attitude were taken from us too soon and he will be missed dearly. Rest in peace, handsome Nick."

At the time of going to press, along with the tragic loss of Nick, at least three employees of Universal Music France were among the dead, as well as French journalist Guillaume B. Decherf.

"REST IN PEACE, HANDSOME NICK"

BRENDON URIE

Beyond the devastating loss of life, the trauma of the attacks continue to have a rippling effect upon the rock world.

Upon returning home safely to America, the Eagles Of Death Metal posted an emotional message (see above) paying tribute to all of those affected and confirmed that all touring plans are on hold until further notice.

They were not alone in doing so.

Sacramento alt.metal legends Deftones were booked for a three-night residency at Le Bataclan starting the following night, with some members even present at the EODM show and leaving only a matter of minutes before the gunmen took control. Singer Chino Moreno told CBS 13 that he was having dinner with his wife and daughter just around the corner when they heard shots fired in the distance and were rushed back to the hotel by their security team. Deftones have since cancelled the rest of their European tour, which included a performance at The SSE Arena, Wembley.

In a procession of similarly-minded cancellations, Every Time I Die asked fans to bear with them while they returned to New York in order to be with their families. Foo Fighters had four dates left on their European run, and were scheduled to play in Paris on Monday November 16, but the tragedy forced them to head back to America. With French authorities declaring a state of national emergency, events in the days that followed were cancelled as the country mourned its loss. Motörhead, Marilyn Manson and Skindred were among those that rescheduled performances.

One of the other bands affected were Lamb Of God, who on November 19 cancelled the remainder of their European tour, citing security concerns. Indeed, the attacks have raised new questions about the preventative efficacy of venue security. World-renowned concert promoters Live Nation have announced that they will be increasing security following the attacks. "The safety and security of our shows, fans and venues continues to be our highest priority," they vowed in a press statement. "Due to the recent events in Paris, and in an abundance of caution, we have implemented heightened security procedures globally. However, because of the sensitive nature of these protocols, we cannot elaborate further on the specific details."

Le Bataclan, Paris, days after the attack

The world's second-largest events promoter, AEG, who operate London's two largest indoor venues, The SSE Arena, Wembley and The O2 Arena, have also agreed to tighten up security operations. "We will continue to enforce the enhanced security in place for the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals, as well as increase our general venue security operations at this time. Venue security is monitored at all times to ensure the safety of all our visitors, we ask that they allow extra time for security checks when entering the venue."

Reflecting the unity and defiance that has been bred by the terror attacks, however, Dominique Revert – co-owner of Le Bataclan – vowed that his venue will one day reopen.

"[There is] no question about it," he told Billboard last week. "Hearts will be heavy for a few months, a few years. But we will reopen. We will not surrender."

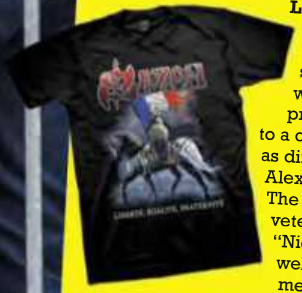
Kerrang! would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all those people who have lost their families, friends and loved ones.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Along with various campaigns to get **EODM**'s cover of **Duran Duran** hit Save A Prayer to number one in France and the UK, the rock world has banded together to raise funds for those affected. Nick Alexander's friend Miguel Benavides decided to start a memorial fund in order to help the family with funeral costs, details of which can be found below. The fund had reached its original $25,000 goal within hours of launching.

blink-182 have released a $14.99 shirt to commemorate Nick Alexander, which was advertised using the hashtag #blink182fornick and will have 100 per cent of its proceeds donated to the merchandise manager's family.

Saxon have also launched their **Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité** shirt, which will have all profits donated to a charitable trust as directed by the Alexander family. The UK metal veterans said: "Nick was a well respected merchandise manager who has worked with many bands worldwide, including Saxon, and will be sorely missed by many friends and colleagues on the road."



If you would like to get involved, the Nick Alexander memorial fund can found at: Gofundme.com/y7aaknp8

Rock fans pay their respect to the fallen

PANDORA BY RAY ZELL Rayzell.com

ROCK FANS GO TO GIGS TO ESCAPE THE SHITTY REALITIES OUTSIDE.
THIS TIME, THE SHITTY OUTSIDE REALITIES FOLLOWED THEM IN.
MAY OUR FELLOW ROCK FANS REST IN PEACE.
RR 14/11/15

THE BIG STORY

SLAM DUNK 2016 IS A GO!

KERRANG! CAN EXCLUSIVELY REVEAL THAT NEXT YEAR'S **SLAM DUNK** HEADLINERS WILL BE NONE OTHER THAN **PANIC! AT THE DISCO**. AND THIS IS JUST THE START OF IT…

WE'RE STILL TRYING to catch our breath from this year's extravaganza, but, like they say, you can never have too much of a good thing! Slam Dunk have exclusively revealed to Kerrang! that **Panic! At The Disco** will be headlining next year's 10th anniversary bash, with **Of Mice & Men**, **New Found Glory**, **Four Year Strong**, **Every Time I Die**, **Issues**, **Memphis May Fire** and **Real Friends** in tow. We caught up with P!ATD's Brendon Urie to find out what he's got in store for us…

SO, PANIC! ARE HEADLINING SLAM DUNK! HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT THAT?

"It's awesome, it's fucking cool, and I'm very excited. We haven't actually played it before, but we have friends who have and have heard it's awesome! They'd say, 'Yeah, it's similar to Reading & Leeds.' I'd say, 'Really?' And they'd be like, 'No, not at all (*laughs*)!' They were fucking with me, because they like to bring up the bottling, and I was like, 'Ah,, great, is that going to happen?' But they all said, 'No way, man, it's a totally different thing, with great bands like New Found Glory and Paramore and these great peers of ours.' The line-ups are great, and I love that."

AND IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME HEADLINING A UK FESTIVAL… THAT'S EXCITING! DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL PRESSURE – LIKE YOU *HAVE* TO BRING YOUR A-GAME?

"I believe so! So yeah, that's another exciting element coming into it. And sure, there's a little bit of pressure, I'm not gonna lie! But that's something I'm looking forward to taking on, like, I've got all this time to think, 'Right, let's get down to it – what kind of fun can we have on this stage? What can we bring with us? What *can't* we do, and how are we gonna compensate for this?' I'm excited to be exploring all the possibilities and seeing what we can do."

IS IT SAFE TO PRESUME YOU'LL BRING AS MUCH PRODUCTION AS YOU CAN?

"Exactly. That's always the struggle, figuring out what we can do, but, like I said, we've got lots of time to figure it out, which is great."

> **"PEOPLE AREN'T THERE TO WATCH US JERK OFF"**
>
> **BRENDON URIE**

CAN PEOPLE EXPECT TO HEAR A LOT OF MATERIAL FROM THE NEW RECORD IN THE SET LIST?

"I wouldn't say it'll be too heavy with that, because when I go to a show, '*Don't bore us, get to the chorus,*' is my chant. Because I'm like, 'Gimme the fucking hits, we're not here to watch you experiment with some new shit!' And I think it also depends on how well the record [Death Of A Bachelor, out Jan 15, 2016] does. If people really take to it, then yeah, I think we should play four or five new songs, cool, but we'll never forget that people are there to have a good time, not to watch some artist jerk off onstage, to be honest. It's about the crowd, not your personal journey – that can be a part of it, too, but I'd rather start a party with everyone there and interact and make sure they're having a good time."

AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY… CAN YOU ACTUALLY SLAM DUNK?

"(*Laughs*) I'm, like, five-foot-eight, the hoops are at what, 10 feet? So, I'm kinda screwed, but if we drop the hoop down to six feet? I got you!"

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHEN? May 28 – 30, 2016

WHERE? Leeds City Centre, Birmingham NEC, University Of Hertfordshire (Hatfield)

WHO? Panic! At The Disco, New Found Glory, Of Mice & Men, Four Year Strong, Every Time I Die, Issues, Memphis May Fire, Real Friends

WHERE TO GET SORTED? Tickets go on sale 9am, Friday November 27 from Slamdunkmusic.com

MORE INFO? Head over to Kerrang.com for all your Slam Dunk news and plenty more announcements

Slam Dunk 20 FESTIVAL 16
2006 THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY 2016

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: GETTY

No-one knows why, but Brendon really hates that gold microphone

NEW FOUND GLORY

COME NEXT MAY, SINGER JORDAN PUNDIK PROMISES WE'LL ALL BE BOUND FOR GLORY…

We've caught you guys at Slam Dunk before! What are your favourite memories from playing it?

"First off, we are super-excited to be returning to Slam Dunk, and even more excited to help share in the 10th anniversary of the festival! It's been quite a while since we last played, but my favourite memories always stem from the fact that there are usually so many bands that we are friends with taking part, so it's a great way to catch up and spend time with bands that we've toured with. It's an awesome time for all involved!"

So, what sets Slam Dunk apart from other festivals? What do you notice?

"One of the cool things about Slam Dunk for us is to see how much it's grown since it first started, not only in the size of the crowds, but also the number of great bands taking part in it, and the expansion to different cities and venues. I think it's cool that a festival in late spring, early summer, that primarily focuses on our genre of music has been able to not only survive, but also grow throughout the years, and has now become an event that people look forward to attending year after year."

OF MICE & MEN

DRUMMER VALENTINO ARTEAGA SAYS THE MICE WILL BE COMING TO PLAY, DESPITE SINGER AUSTIN CARLILE'S BACK SURGERY…

Which bands on the line-up are you most excited to play with?

"We're definitely excited to see the New Found Glory dudes. We hung with them a bunch on Warped Tour 2012 in the U.S. and really respect them as pioneers of that sound. Also, the Issues dudes are kinda like our super talented lil' bros, so it'll be great to see them, too. All of the bands on the line-up are really solid, though, we'll be around watching everybody and hanging… that's what festivals are all about!"

What are your festival essentials?

"Well, you gotta have the festival map or app to know the times and stages you need to be at to see certain bands. Quick word of advice to the avid concert-goer: check out some new artists on the line-up. Festivals are a great place to fall in love with a new band! You'll also need an extra battery pack or something to charge your mobile device. Nothing is worse than not being able to link up with your squad 'cause your phone is dead! And finally, water! I cannot stress this enough. Heat exhaustion and dehydration are one of the leading causes for an unnecessary trip to the first-aid tent. Do your body a favour and keep it hydrated and fed so you have enough energy for moshing and singing your heart out!"

The scene of the accident

THE GHOST INSIDE BUS CRASH HORROR

MORE SAD NEWS reached the K! office last week as Los Angeles metalcore titans **The Ghost Inside** were involved in a serious bus crash.

On Thursday, November 19, while travelling from Texas for a scheduled performance in Phoenix, Arizona, the band's tour bus collided with a semi truck just a few miles east of the U.S. border checkpoint on US 62/180.

While early reports suggested that the band and crew were alive and accounted for, the official statement from the band's camp – released a few hours later – indicated that their bus driver was fatally injured, along with passengers in the other vehicle.

At the time of going to press, bassist James Riley corrected later reports that his bandmates were in intensive care, writing on his personal Facebook page that having spoken "extensively with each of the guy's nurses.... They are all in very stable condition and their families are arriving today to be with them. They still very much need your love and support."

A donation page has been set up to cover the band's medical costs, as well as funeral arrangements for the driver and damaged equipment costs.

Everyone at Kerrang! would like to extend their deepest sympathies and condolences to all those affected.

Emergency services were called out to Highway 180

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

"Thanks to everyone who reached out with concern today. The Ghost Inside was involved in a serious bus accident outside El Paso, TX this morning. All five band members and all members of the crew are alive and currently being treated for their injuries. Please keep them in your thoughts as well as their bus driver and those in the other vehicle who did not make it. Unfortunately, all U.S. shows on the Locals Only Tour are cancelled. Refunds [are] available at point of purchase. We will update you [with] more when we can."

HOW TO HELP

In order to raise funds to help those affected and their families – including funeral costs for the bus driver – a donation page has been set up here: Gofundme.com/aqb5umd8

WAY TO GO, ANDY!

Andy Biersack's upcoming solo album seems to get more star-studded with each passing week. The latest announcement came in the form of ex-MCR bassist **Mikey Way** – who will join brother Gerard Way, Patrick Stump, and members of 5SOS and All Time Low on the debut **Andy Black** release.

DETENTION CENTRE

I Killed The Prom Queen were detained by Malaysian officials for performing without visas. Guitarist Jona Weinhofen tweeted that the band "have food and water" and are "in good health", though could be detained for "four – 14 days". He also pointed out, before they were eventually released, that "things could definitely be worse and our situation pales to other recent events".

SPOTTED

Head to Kerrang.com to see footage of **blink-182** legend **Mark Hoppus** joining **Linkin Park** for hit single Numb at a Music For Relief benefit show in LA. The clip was filmed and shared by Mark's wife, Skye Hoppus. Elsewhere, **Korn**'s Jonathan Davis woke up to a surprise shout-out when **Barack Obama** presented army captain Florent Groberg his Medal Of Honor, stating he was "not the lead singer from Korn". The war hero and superfan of the nu-metal godfathers had previously been visited by Jonathan while recovering. We can't quite believe this, either!

the used

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THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

ASKING ALEXANDRIA AND **PANIC! AT THE DISCO** ARE SNEAKING UP THE CHART BUT **LOWER THAN ATLANTIS** REMAIN NUMBER ONE FOR THE *GAZILLIONTH* WEEK…

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	7	1	LOWER THAN ATLANTIS	Get Over It	SONY MUSIC
2	2	2	ASKING ALEXANDRIA	I Won't Give In	SUMERIAN
3	8	2	STATE CHAMPS	All You Are Is History	PURE NOISE
4	6	2	GHOST TOWN	Spark	FUELED BY RAMEN
5	2	5	PANIC! AT THE DISCO	Emperor's New Clothes	FUELED BY RAMEN
6	4	3	PVRIS	White Noise	RISE
7	3	7	FOREVER NEVER	One Life	FOREVER NEVER
8	2	8	BEAUTIFUL BODIES	Capture & Release	EPITAPH
9	16	1	BMTH	Throne	SONY MUSIC
10	3	10	BFMV	Venom	RCA
11	10	4	EAGLES OF DEATH METAL	Complexity	UNIVERSAL MUSIC
12	8	5	SIMPLE PLAN	Boom	ATLANTIC
13	2	13	REIGNING DAYS	Friendly Fire	SELF-RELEASE
14	1	14	ZEBRAHEAD	Worse Than This	RUDE
15	6	5	COLDRAIN	Gone	HOPELESS
16	4	14	COUNTING DAYS	Liberated Sounds	MASCOT MUSIC
17	4	14	NEW YEARS DAY	Kill Or Be Killed	CENTURY MEDIA
18	6	7	CROSSFAITH	Devil's Party	UNFD
19	12	2	ALL TIME LOW	Runaways	HOPELESS
20	5	11	ESCAPE THE FATE	Just A Memory	ELEVEN SEVEN

MIKE DUCE, LOWER THAN ATLANTIS

HOW DID GET OVER IT COME ABOUT?
"I never really stop writing music. We usually find that the best tracks are the ones that are written just after an album, and this adheres to that rule."

WE LOVE A COWBELL – DO YOU THINK IT WORKS WELL IN A ROCK SONG?
"There's a fine line to tread when making cowbell a feature of a song. Especially since the whole 'more cowbell' thing. I don't think we went too overboard with it! It's more of a feature as opposed to a gimmick in Get Over It."

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT GET OVER IT IN A LIVE SETTING?
"It's currently the first song in our live set, and we play it without an intro because the song builds up naturally. It's a 'no bullshit' start to the set!"

DAN STEER, REIGNING DAYS

HOW DOES IT FEEL BEING IN THE K! ROCK CHART?
"Amazing! We're in very good company, so it's cool to be here!"

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MOMENT IN THE SONG?
"Honestly, all of it. It's fun to play live and it intertwines between the heavy shit and the restrained parts, too. We like a riff."

IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT THE SONG THAT PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW?
"It was first written in a flat in London – aided by lots and lots of red wine."

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

KERRANG! TV
KERRANG! RADIO

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 10am and also on K! TV Thursdays at 4pm. Tune in and listen up!

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SAT	20	NOTTINGHAM	CAPITAL FM ARENA
MON	22	BOURNEMOUTH	BIC SOLENT HALL
TUE	23	CARDIFF	MOTORPOINT ARENA
THU	25	MANCHESTER	VICTORIA WAREHOUSE
SAT	27	LONDON	ALEXANDRA PALACE

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Black Stone Cherry

SHINEDOWN

HALESTORM

HIGHLY SUSPECT

JANUARY 2016

THU	28	CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA
FRI	29	NOTTINGHAM CAPITAL FM ARENA
SAT	30	LIVERPOOL ECHO ARENA

FEBRUARY 2016

MON	01	GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO
TUE	02	BIRMINGHAM BARCLAYCARD ARENA
THU	04	WEMBLEY THE SSE ARENA
FRI	05	LEEDS FIRST DIRECT ARENA
SAT	06	MANCHESTER ARENA

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motörhead

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Bad Magic

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SAXON

Girlschool

* EXCLUDING NEWCASTLE

JANUARY 2016

SAT	23	NEWCASTLE CITY HALL
SUN	24	GLASGOW CLYDE AUDITORIUM
TUE	26	MANCHESTER O_2 APOLLO
WED	27	SWINDON OASIS
FRI	29	LONDON EVENTIM APOLLO

EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO DEMAND

SAT 30 LONDON EVENTIM APOLLO

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NEWS

FRESH BL
ROCK'S BREA

L – R: Zack Robbins, Jake Clarke, Taylor Madison, Joe Kane

SUPERHEAVEN

MEET THE GRUNGE REVIVALISTS WHO DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE THINKS…

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE PHOTO: TOM MARTIN

AH, THE LONG HAIR, THE BAGGY T-SHIRTS, THE TWO-WEEKS-WITHOUT-A-WASH JEANS. THIS ALL LOOKS A LITTLE BIT FAMILIAR…

Well, yes indeed, this bunch of wouldn't-take-'em-home-to-meet-your-mothers are Superheaven, a Pennsylvanian four-piece who owe more than a little to the worlds of '90s college rock and grunge. "We're all of the age where we grew up with a lot of those grunge bands," nods frontman Taylor Madison. "Nirvana, Soundgarden, all that stuff was really present in all of our youths with MTV and stuff. Maybe there is a bit of a 20- to 25-year loop of fashion thing going on there. That being said, it's not like when I pick up a guitar I go, 'I'm going to write a song like Teen Spirit, or something dumb like that!'"

SO, THEY'RE NOT JUST KURT COBAIN CARBON COPIES, THEN?

Oh, hell no. In fact, Superheaven (or Daylight as they used to be called before a lawsuit forced a name change) love nothing more than harking back to the *old*-old days. "Honestly, I listen to loads of classic rock and those bands are probably as much an influence in what we do as grunge is," smiles Taylor. "Take AC/DC or Deep Purple, they all have really simple, striking parts that you can instantly hum along to. I try to keep it simple, then when we play to a crowd that's not exactly 'ours', we've got something to give to them. There's always a new ass to kick!"

"WE GREW UP ON GRUNGE!"

SPEAKING OF KICKING ASSES, THIS LOT DO LOOK A BIT… MOODY?

Well, maybe not moody, but certainly straight-talking. "I think we've got a reputation for being a bit standoffish because of how we are around other bands sometimes," shrugs Taylor. "I see lots of people trying to be overly bro-y with other bands after tours and it makes me laugh. We're friends with lots of people in bands, but if we don't get on with someone we won't shy away from it. I see lots of people out there who aren't in music for what I consider to be 'real' reasons. They just wanna get famous and be a big shot, and it's really, really sad. That's not what this band is about."

BLIMEY, STRONG STUFF!

Indeed. Fortunately this lot have got both the cajones and the songs to back it up in absolute spades. "We come from a punk rock background and the bands we admire, like Title Fight, for example, don't really care how other people see them," finishes Taylor. "That's what we're going for all I want to do is write the best songs I can and have people dig them. If you don't like it, then go find some other band,

To hear them, get yourself over to ***Kerrang.com***

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FOR FANS OF: Smashing Pumpkins, Pearl Jam, Nirvana.
HEAR: Their stunning new album, Ours Is Chrome.
MORE INFO: Superheavenband.tumblr.com
CHECK OUT: The extraterrestrial video for I've Been Bored.
DON'T MISS: Superheaven and more killer bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio.

K!OMMUNITY

IT'S YOUR PAGE, YOUR LIFE!

CAN YOU FEEL MY ART

"When I put art over homework and end up spending my WHOLE weekend drawing Oli… Oops," says ***@bmthblasphemy****. Well, you might be failing in the homework stakes, but your drawing gets an A* from us. Just, uh, don't tell your teachers that…*

EAT & DESTROY

Miss May I, Asking Alexandria and Slipknot all on one epic birthday cake? This rules, ***@charlianne08****! You'll need an extra-strong knife to cut into this cake of pure metal, eh?*

WINNER!

4 WORDS (TO GRIN UPON)

Here's ***@RobynEaston*** *with a very excitable Bullet For My Valentine. Did you tell them to Scream, Aim and Smile in this shot, Robyn? You've made some very metal guys look a lot less metal, and, for that, you win a signed We Came As Romans guitar! Well done.*

DRESSED OUT

"That one time I cosplayed as Tyler Joseph," says ***@AlexJamesmeier****. This is a killer effort! We were almost tricked into thinking that the twenty one pilots man was trying to enter one of our K!ommunity comps. Blurryface does it all the time.*

THNKS FR TH SLFS

@the.kobra.kid *informs us that "Patrick was the nicest guy ever!" when she met him. At first we thought this was the Fall Out Boy singer with his fellow bandmates, and this was Pete Wentz' next hair style. Suits you, Pete.*

WHO'S CHARLIE?

Here's ***@KiaranHegarty*** *with a certain Charlie Simpson. Neither of you look particularly happy in this snap, it must be said, Kiaran. Super Mario on your shirt, on the other hand, looks properly stoked. Must be a big Busted fan.*

FANS EXPOSED

"My @OMandM guitar pick collection has taken forever to build but I use the picks often!" says ***@charlotteclaber****. Ah, so this is where Of Mice & Men's band supplies have disappeared to. We bumped into guitarist Phil Manansala the other day and he was just using a crisp to play his guitar. It didn't work.*

NEXT WEEK

WIN!

VIP DOWNLOAD 2016 TICKETS!

Hung out with your favourite band recently? Bumped into Josh Franceschi at an Arsenal game? Grabbed a bite to eat with Brendon Urie? Well, whatever it is, we want to see your snaps! Send 'em in on Twitter or Instagram using **#Kommunity** and you could win VIP Weekend Camping tickets to **Download Festival 2016** to see the likes of **Rammstein**, **Black Sabbath**, **Iron Maiden** and more! Sweeeeeeeet.

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SPIRIT OF VICTORY

THAT'S THE SPIRIT WASN'T ONLY A MONUMENTAL SUCCESS FOR **BRING ME THE HORIZON** – IT WAS A REVELATION FOR THEIR FRONTMAN, TOO. NICK RUSKELL MEETS **OLI SYKES**: A SUPERSTAR REBORN...

PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES, ANDY FORD

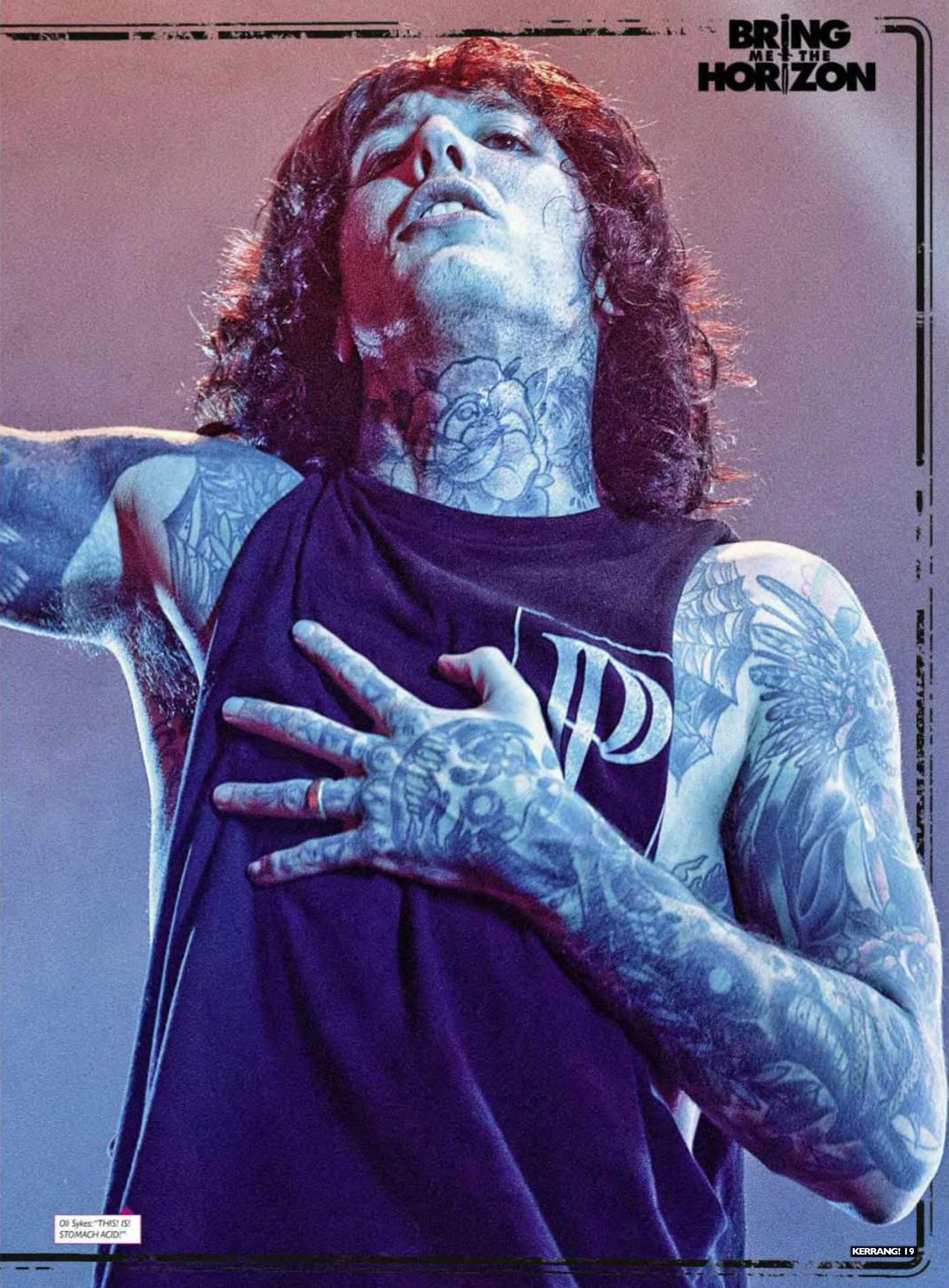
Step into Oli Sykes' office...

Up on the first floor of Drop Dead's Sheffield HQ, there's no mistaking who's the boss here. Gold discs for Bring Me The Horizon's sales around the world hang proudly on the walls. A row of Kerrang! Awards given to the man's band sit atop a huge bookshelf. On the glass wall of the office is etched, over and over, the familiar Drop Dead logo, based on the Leviathan Cross symbol, the accompaniment of the Nine Satanic Statements in the Church Of Satan's Satanic Bible. There is a massive desk. There is, surprisingly, so little mess that even the most anal of neat freaks could be quite comfortable in here.

"I'm never in here, to be honest," admits our host with a grin, stretching idly in his chair. "I just thought, 'I should probably have a big office.'"

Ah.

But then, why not? And in a place like this, the hub of a mini-empire that stretches across the globe and takes in a clothing line, a band and now the seeds of a record label, you need someone clearly in charge. It's just that most CEOs don't also line their offices with this many toys, or have their band's umbrella logo proudly displayed on



Oli Sykes: "THIS! IS! STOMACH ACID!"

the back of their beautiful sports cars. And although Oli, Bring Me The Horizon and Drop Dead have long since become very successful, right now they are *the shit*. Downstairs in the warehouse, a team of staff diligently pack and mail orders ("Some days you get 200, other days you get over 1,000," says Oli, matter of factly, strolling through the endless aisles of merch). In another room, final adjustments to BMTH's onstage samples are being made.

That's why Oli's office chair hasn't seen much of his arse recently. With That's The Spirit out, tour bus wheels in motion and tickets flying out of venues as though they were attached to Eurofighter, BMTH are hitting a peak not seen from a British metal band for a good while. Their entire UK tour sold out almost as soon as it was announced. They've just got back from an enormous tour of the U.S.. And Oli and his bandmates – guitarist Lee Malia, bassist Matt Kean, drummer Matt Nicholls and electronics whiz Jordan Fish – today have about them a quiet confidence that almost borders on blasé. But then, Bring Me The Horizon have always had a sense of just getting on with what they're doing, from their early deathcore days of pub gigs and no small level of derision, to, well, this. And Oli has a simple explanation why.

"I think the most important thing I've learnt is if you want something doing right, you've gotta do it yourself," he muses. "In the past, we've put faith in people and thought they could do a better job. And then we've realised that it's down to us to do it, and figure it out. And that's the whole thing: you can learn how to do something, but you can't really learn how to have a vision."

Bring Me The Horizon have a record label. They have management. They have a booking agent. But there's still the feeling about them that they're the ones in control, playing by no rules but their own. And Oli knows all too well about how keeping control can pay off, and how disastrous almost losing it can be.

"I'VE SAID SORRY A MILLION TIMES, BUT IT MEANS NOTHING UNTIL YOU CHANGE YOUR WAYS"
OLI SYKES

During Bring Me The Horizon's set at Reading in August, Oli addressed the crowd. He admitted that he "used to be a drug addict", and thanked his fans who "saved his life". His drug use specifically of ketamine – had seen the frontman hit a low, from which he admitted he almost never recovered. But recover he did – though his gratitude is reserved for fans, friends and family who helped him through the darkness, rather than the treatment program he undertook.

"It was a load of bollocks," he says dismissively of the 12 Step program he entered into in rehab.

There were two problems with the 12 Steps, Oli says. The first was that, as a highly Christian approach to dealing with addiction, the non-believing Oli didn't really have much truck with the underlying religious theme of the program.

"The second rule is 'Hand yourself over to God'. None of these people are religious, so they've quickly got to pretend to believe in God, and then get better through him," he frowns. "But what happens when they come to the conclusion that God's not real? And most people come to that, and so it's like, 'Why am I doing this?' I might as well fucking get back on drugs, or whatever. It's a miserable thing to be around 20 people who are all getting better, not for themselves or their families, but for something you know they don't really believe. If you try to ask those questions in the meetings, they say it's, like, God as you perceive him and all this stuff. But I don't perceive God as a conscious being, someone who can physically help me or is looking at me. That's not for me, that's – what the fuck I can't hand anything over to him because he's not going to fucking do anything. It is mad, it's dated as fuck, really. And it doesn't really work in England, where people believe in God in the same kind of way they believe in Santa. People are religious, but if you actually go up to anyone in the street and say, 'Do you actually believe that you're going to go up into the clouds after you die?' they'd be like, 'What the fuck?'"

The other problem Oli found was that the notion of addiction as a disease, as told by many rehab facilities, didn't really sit with him. Rather than trying to figure out what it was that was making him behave in such a self-destructive manner, he felt it was a simplified explanation that didn't really help him see his problems clearly.

"It's like it's trying to trick yourself, rather than getting to the root of the problem," he explains. "And people keep going to those things weekly, or fortnightly, or on whatever basis. I don't want to air my dirty laundry with strangers. I wanted to get better.

"When I first went to rehab, you have to say you're an addict, which I didn't have a problem with," he continues, "But one of the most offensive things about it is that they call it a disease, and I think that's offensive to people who have an *actual* disease, because it's self-inflicted. I mean, yeah, there's a level

Bring Me The Horizon: (From left) Matt Kean, Lee Malia, Jordan Fish, Oli Sykes and Matt Nicholls

JURASSIC PARK IS DEAD!

OLI GIVES US AN INSIGHT INTO THE RUNNING OF **DROP DEAD** – AND THE SPECIAL PROJECTS HE WANTS TO WORK ON NEXT!

DROP DEAD'S OUTPUT SEEMS TO BE ABOUT TAKING INSPIRATION FROM YOUR OBSESSION WITH THINGS AS A KID. WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO COLLABORATE WITH NEXT?
"Jurassic Park is one that's always been a dream. And Sonic is something we haven't done yet, either. The only limitation now is my imagination – we can kinda do what we want. There's nothing that I want to do that I can't."

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'VE WANTED TO DO THAT YOU'VE BEEN UNABLE TO WORK ON?
"There's always things that it just wouldn't make sense to do. Like, the brand that Drop Dead is and sometimes the clothes I wear are two different things. Sometimes I'll try to incorporate that, and I've realised that it's not the right place for it. If people want to buy Drop Dead clothes, they want to know that it's Drop Dead, and I like to wear a lot of plain stuff, which is something that I could incorporate, and do, but you realise there's no point making something if no-one wants it. I've learnt that the hard way."

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED A SIDE-PROJECT MORE REFLECTIVE OF YOUR OWN PERSONAL STYLE?
"I have, but then I remind myself that I've got enough to do as it is (*laughs*)!"

LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND!

OLI GIVES US A WHISTLE-STOP TOUR OF DROP DEAD'S SHEFFIELD HEADQUARTERS!

Sadly, Oli's electricity bill meant running a light-up 'Drop' sign, too, wasn't an option

There's even a shelf for odd socks. Probably

SHOP

"We decided to open up the shop because people kept coming to the warehouse so they could buy stuff, in cash. It was fine, it was cool, but it's like, if people are doing that, we might as well open a little store and make it easy for them! We have signings in here – we've done one. Architects have been in, too… It's really cool."

WAREHOUSE

"We were in another building up the road that we'd been in for years, but we had to move here about a year ago because it's bigger. It's crazy thinking how big it's got. We do a lot of orders every day, and in festival season we have to think about setting up stalls at festivals. It's busy!"

OFFICE

"I felt like I needed a nice office. I don't really come in here, but it's good to have somewhere, I suppose. We're away so much that I do a lot of stuff remotely. I've got my Kerrang! Awards up there, as you can see. I didn't get them out just because you're coming!"

of it not being your fault, but it *is* your fault as well. You got into this situation. It's not a disease. It's *not* a disease, it's mental."

One way of looking at it was that it would be a self-fulfilling prophecy – Oli reckons that maybe calling yourself an addict over a long period of time perpetuates it, rather than helping solve the problem.

"My dad lost his toe, he smashed it up, and everyone said, 'You'll lose your balance,' and, 'You won't be able to walk right,'" he offers, by way of example. "But he just got right up and carried on walking, and he didn't listen. And he's fine. But if a doctor says, 'You'll lose all balance, don't walk on it,' then you probably *will* lose all balance, because you've been told you will. If people are telling you you're an addict and it's a disease and it's going to be a struggle, you're going to be convinced it is, rather than getting on with it."

What Oli wanted was to understand his problem. And he had questions the 12 Steps weren't answering.

"I didn't have an attraction to drugs before, and I took them, I took them because they were fun, and then over time they stop being fun and you start using them because of X and Y, and you don't want to feel this, and it gets worse and worse, and then you're using them not to feel, or whatever," he explains. "I don't want drugs all the time, I need to figure out *why* I'm taking these drugs. What's so bad? I just think it's complete bullshit, the 12 Steps – not to offend anyone who lived them and it works for them. It just doesn't seem right saying I'm an addict every day. I'm not an addict. I can be around drugs, if I want some drugs I'll take some drugs, because I have no worries any more about falling back into that, because the only reason I fell into it was problems that I needed to get through and overcome, and I have done."

How Oli overcame his issues was being diagnosed with ADHD. While he says that for some people 12 Step might well be the answer, for him this news illuminated part of his personality for the first time. He began to understand himself and his actions a lot better.

"Being diagnosed with ADHD was a huge part [of my recovery], and it made more sense to me having ADHD and self-medicating rather than being an addict who *needs* drugs and is always going to suffer," he explains. "I think there's probably a lot of people who have it. The amount of people I think are undiagnosed with ADHD or something like that is unreal."

Part of that problem, the singer thinks, is down to a lack of proper medical support and care for people living with such things. That people don't really listen.

"It's so hard to convince someone…" he begins. "The medication and stuff I got, it took me ages to get to that point, because health services just don't care. I know people who have got underlying mental illnesses, and it's just too late, and so people think they're

As far as guarding your beloved Kerrang! Awards goes, you don't get much safer than a T. Rex/Ninja Turtle double act

bad people. People don't want to be around that person, and if you've got ADHD or you're diagnosed, you obviously make much more effort to be around those people. I think it's something that a lot of people struggle with silently, so I just felt like it was an important thing to talk about."

And it was this revelation that led to Oli proactively changing his life, for the better.

"It's good to talk and let it all out, but, at the same time, it's like you've got to go and say sorry to all the people you've done wrong, and I've done that a million times," he explains. "I've said sorry to the band a million times for all the shit, but it doesn't mean anything until you actually change your ways. You need to show you're sorry by doing right. It'll take a while, it's not going to be an easy fix, it's not going to be going around and saying, 'Sorry, my hands are clean now.' You've got to show people, and you've got to make up for it as well. The second time worked so well for me in rehab because I didn't do that, I just went to a general ward and was around other people who were in there for all types of reasons. It was those people who help you get better, because you realise you're the same as everyone else. You work through it that way, rather than trying to work through for some higher power."

The other thing that really helped Oli was his band. Bring Me The Horizon are a gang of mates. As they hang out in Drop Dead HQ today, it feels more like a clubhouse than the centre of a big-money business. The friendship, you immediately sense, is stronger than anything life can throw at them.

"That definitely helps as well," smiles Oli. "We're just lucky that we're a group of people who aren't going to ignore it and let someone get on with it. There are so many people that you see who are in the place I was, and they're just destined to get stuck there, because the people around them aren't telling them to get better; they're using them, because they want to do that, too. If the rest of the band were druggies, too, we'd be fucked."

Right now, though, Bring Me The Horizon are far from fucked. The That's The Spirit tour is currently *the* hottest happening in rock, and they couldn't balls up their current trajectory if they tried. In fact, the only thing they should be even vaguely concerned about is how fast tourmates PVRIS are sneaking up behind them. And 2015 has already been a banner year for Mr Sykes, having got married to Mrs Sykes in the summer.

Not that he wants to see her smiling in the wings while he's onstage…

"If it's the first show where my wife's come out and I can see her watching me, I'm like, 'Urgh!'" he groans with a grin. "I feel more conscious about what I'm doing and what I'm saying. I like her and my family watching – but I'm always like, 'You gotta go out front, you gotta experience it.' I like 'em watching, but it's just pressure, I guess."

"I CAN'T HAND ANYTHING OVER TO GOD. HE'S NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING"
OLI SYKES

And with this being Bring Me The Horizon's biggest tour to date – with venues holding over 10,000 people a night – this is a hell of a way to round off such an amazing year.

"I think we're starting to feel comfortable with playing big shows," the singer nods. "But it's less about how big the venues are, and how big the tour is. You look at the dates and you're like, 'Fucking hell, we're not home 'til Christmas!'"

And as big as Alexandra Palace in London is, it's the hometown show, Doncaster Dome, a stone's throw from Sheffield, that's got 'Standout' written all over it.

"It's really close to where Matt and Lee and the other Matt lives, so the turnout is gonna be *insane*," he grins. "It's all gonna be family crazy. I think that's where we feel the most pressure, because you got all your family and your friends watching what you're doing. I think that's what you think about more than anything else."

As Oli leaves his office to go and chat to Drop Dead staff about Drop Dead stuff, Bring Me The Horizon folk about Bring Me The Horizon stuff, he has a spring in his step. Not born of the arrogance some people begin to shoulder following the kind of success and good fortune he's had, but of something much nicer. He seems relaxed, at ease. Drop Dead feels like a happy, friendly place to work. Elsewhere in its huge warehouse, Matt Kean is laughing his head off telling a story about pissing in his own fridge ("I was drunk," is his reasoning). So, there's one final question: Oli, are you a happy person?

He thinks for a moment, then smiles.

"Yeah, totally," he answers. "Just like anyone else, you have bad and good days, but generally I'm as happy as I can be, I think."

Make no mistake: Oli Sykes is firmly back in control. Prepare to submit.

BRING ME THE HORIZON TOUR THE UK THIS WEEK – SEE THE GIG GUIDE

*Tune into **Kerrang! Radio** all this week as the best of Bring Me The Horizon goes under the Spotlight!*

INTERVIEW

Blood BROTHERS

WHEN **FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH** AND **PAPA ROACH** ARRIVE IN THE UK THIS WEEK, THE STAGE ISN'T THE ONLY THING THEY'LL SHARE. BECAUSE, AS JAMES HICKIE LEARNS, THE BOND BETWEEN **IVAN MOODY** AND **JACOBY SHADDIX** RUNS TO THE FRONTMEN'S CORE…

PHOTOS: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

When you're putting together any tour, you need to ensure your bands have the requisite chemistry. Which makes the success of Five Finger Death Punch and Papa Roach's co-headline trek across the U.S. something of a surprise. When you first speak to frontmen Ivan Moody and Jacoby Shaddix, they don't seem to belong to the same species, let alone the same bill.

Ask them, for example, how they're doing. "I'm pissed off again!" grumbles Ivan in reply, his drawl like two tectonic plates doing a slow dance. "*Back then* I was bitter – now I'm just pissed."

"I'm in a great place!" rants Jacoby, in stark contrast, spilling pleasantries as if he's being paid by the word. "I can't complain, dude."

Except that, as we'll discover, both he and Ivan have *every reason* to complain. Their bands may be on a collision course with The SSE Arena, Wembley on November 28 – the biggest UK show of their respective careers – but things haven't always gone their way. As Ivan and Jacoby regale K! with their respective stories, they reveal two men whose lives have been similarly characterised by unconventional childhoods, redemptive musical callings and public battles with the demons synonymous with their choice of career. In other words: Wembley is going to be the scene of some emotional – and possibly physical – catharsis because, as in every combat sport, the most explosive bouts occur when the opponents are evenly matched…

Like all epic showdowns, this one begins worlds apart – well, 1,215 miles, to be precise. Ivan Moody – then known by the name of Ivan Lewis Greening – was born in Denver, Colorado, on January 7, 1980, to a hardworking blue-collar family.

"We never had a lot, so, for me, it was a daily battle to make ends meet," says Ivan, with in-at-the-deep-end honesty. As if those circumstances weren't tough enough, his parents – who would later divorce – were in what he describes as "a pretty dysfunctional phase".

"I wanted to barricade myself from that reality, so I would go out, get in fights, sell weed and skip school – I put my parents through *hell*," he reflects.

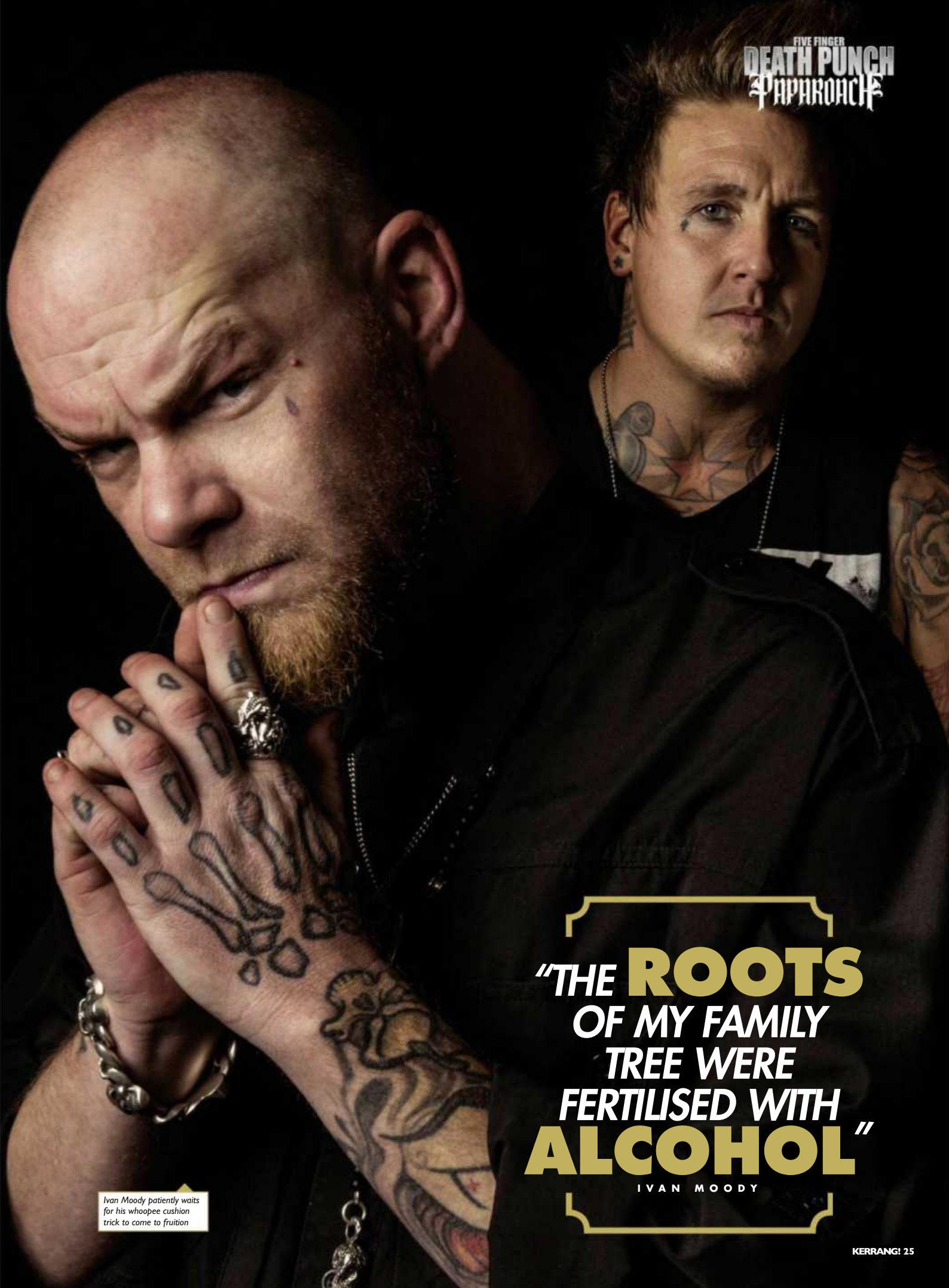
Those self-imposed walls thickened when, at 13, this "living nightmare of a kid" was sent to group halls. "They're basically foster homes, or a civilised way of saying, 'Get the hell out of my house.' I cursed the world for it. I was shuffled from house to house – constantly around people that I didn't know. It created this cold callous over my heart and, for a long time, it made it hard for me to let people in."

It's an experience he'd come to immortalise on Five Finger Death Punch's 2007 debut album, The Way Of The Fist, and the track The Devil's Own, the lyrics of which find Ivan admitting, '*It's because of you I'm broken / It's because of you I'm dead inside*'.

Jacoby Dakota Shaddix – then, erm, Jacoby Dakota Shaddix – was born four years earlier, on July 28, 1976, to childhood problems of an altogether different kind.

"My family were homeless. We lived in a tipi for about a year," says Jacoby of early life in his native Vacaville, California. Being 'mountain folk', he didn't spend time with many other kids and didn't have to see the things he was missing out on. Instead, he ran around outdoors like a blue-arsed fly: barefoot and building dens.

"If you met my biological father, you'd see why I am the way I am – he's a *wild* one," says Jacoby. He says 'biological' because his parents, like Ivan's, divorced when he was six. That inherent hyperactivity became married to a love of music when Jacoby hit middle school, where his formative



"THE **ROOTS** OF MY FAMILY TREE WERE FERTILISED WITH **ALCOHOL**"

IVAN MOODY

Ivan Moody patiently waits for his whoopee cushion trick to come to fruition

Jacoby takes a moment to remember his lost T-shirt sleeves

records included Poison's Look What The Cat Dragged In and Led Zeppelin II, before a love of Fugazi, Social Distortion and Deftones made him want to actively *be* in a band.

Surprisingly, given his consummate skill as a frontman, manning the mic was something that happened by default. Initially an aspiring drummer, he switched to the bass when he realised his friend Dave [Buckner, original Papa Roach drummer] was better, before the theft of his bass further limited his options.

"Eventually Dave said, 'Fuck it, dude – become a singer!'" Jacoby laughs.

As music was the only thing breaching Ivan's fortress of solitude, he never had such doubts about his centre-stage status – although he admits, like Jacoby, to being rather partial to the drums. Having a musical family helped; his grandmother was a folk and country singer, his grandfather a lover of old-school rock'n'roll and his parents variously blasted the likes of Fleetwood Mac, The Doors and The Who.

"All I *ever* wanted to be was a singer," says Ivan. It's an ambition he didn't have to wait long to put into practice, making his live debut at the splendidly named Wooden Knickel, aged 17, with his band, Wicked Jest.

"We played for 15 to 20 minutes in front of this redneck crowd. I remember them looking at me like I was out of my mind. I just thought, 'Wow, I'm pissing people off – at least I've made them think,'" recalls Ivan, savouring the memory of his first taste of heavy metal or, as he describes it, "The middle finger of music genres." The experience was soon curtailed, however, when he was kicked out of the venue because he wasn't old enough to drink.

"They didn't give us the $50 for gas they said they would *or* the 12-pack of beer," he says, his tone suggesting he still resents the injustice.

The mixed fortunes of that night laid a blueprint for Ivan's subsequent tenures in the bands Toys ("An eye-opener; fun") and Motograter ("Chaos; it left me so burnt, I didn't think I ever wanted to make music again afterwards"), before guitarist Zoltan Bathory recruited him to front Five Finger Death Punch – via MySpace, no less – a band that it's fair to say have had a colourful history.

"Through the years I've heard stuff about us online: that we're breaking up, that I've fucked up onstage, and all I do is walk over to our bus, and look at them and I smile, as they know it's all bullshit."

Unlike Ivan's hectic CV, however, Papa Roach remains the *only* band Jacoby has ever been in.

"I didn't need to be in front of anyone – that shit didn't matter," he begins. "I was bouncing off the walls. I didn't give a damn if anybody liked me or not, I'd found my calling. We just wanted to put on shows at our local teen centre to raise money to build a skate park in our town. Over the next five, six, seven, eight years, we started playing regionally – not just in our town – and *that's* when the dream was born," says Jacoby, his tone still reflecting that sense of excitement.

Those who think that burgeoning musical fame is all tour bus pranks and free clothes endorsements should probably stop reading now. Sometimes those old emotional cracks re-open, resulting in people looking for remedies in the wrong places. In Ivan and Jacoby's cases, it was the same place: the bottom of a bottle. For Ivan, he suggests, it was inevitable.

"I've always said that the roots of my family tree were fertilised with alcohol. It goes back for generations and generations," he admits. "For me, it was difficult to not only face myself, but to face the rest of the world and say, 'Hey, it's okay to have a problem.' We all have them, it just depends what side of the spectrum you're on. It could be that you cut yourself, it could be you smoke cigarettes, you're an alcoholic, you're a drug addict – how about you're just socially inept and have anxiety? I hate saying '*problem*', though. It's a bad word; it's *not* a problem, you're human, and being human is okay, it's just a matter of looking at yourself in the mirror and figuring out how to fix the puzzle."

Solving that puzzle has resulted in the creation of Five Finger Death Punch's sixth album, Got Your Six, channelling Ivan's efforts into putting fire in his belly and smiles on the faces of the people that have helped him the most: the fans.

"It's an ode to my band and our fanbase; it's me saying, 'You've had my back this whole time, now I've got yours,'" he says.

Meanwhile, Jacoby's antics at one time earned him the nickname 'Jonny Vodka', an identity he was more than happy to play up to, until the consequences finally came calling.

"I just had to get burnt by the flame too many times, y'know?" he confides. "It just had to level me and break me down to nothing before I wanted to change. I finally had to put that bottle down if I wanted to continue doing what I do."

Which brings us to some rather disappointing news: given the positive vibes now radiating from Ivan and Jacoby – two men that have weathered the storm and are now basking in the sun – it would appear that November 28 looks set to be more of a bro-down than a showdown.

"I got nothing but love for those cats, man," beams Jacoby with the confidence of a man who's already played this venue, having supported Disturbed in 2010. "Five Finger Death Punch have got some fucking jams. They've got this track called Battle Born; you wake up with your head ringing after you've heard that!"

"I *love* Papa Roach, they're a great fucking band!" bellows Ivan, reflecting the affection for his U.S. tour mates. "They make me have to step my game up every single night because Jacoby isn't going to let me have one night off. He goes out there and destroys shit, so I have to get out there and do it, even if it's hard for me. There was one night when I was running a 104 [degree] fever and I was supposed to go to the hospital. I just sat down and thought, 'You know what? We'll go to the hospital afterwards. These kids have paid money and they just saw Papa Roach, so I got up there and did the hour-and-20-minute show – even though I passed out once – and it was fantastic!"

Their journey through life, though intertwined, may have taken them via different paths, but make no mistake: all roads lead to Wembley, and the most explosive pairing of 2015…

FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH AND PAPA ROACH PLAY THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY ON NOVEMBER 28 — SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR DETAILS

> **"I DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN IF ANYBODY LIKED ME OR NOT"**
> JACOBY SHADDIX

LETTER TO MY YOUNGER SELF

Dear Jacoby

I *should* save my breath and not bother giving advice to you because I remember what I was like – I wouldn't listen. You're *way* too stubborn, but I should tell you that you shouldn't be afraid to listen to the people around you. There's no point being so hard-headed, kid, it won't help – but there are people that want to help you. Let them.

Peace!

Jacoby

FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH
PAPAROACH

Ivan said we could have the last Jaffa Cake, but his eyes told a different story

LETTER TO MY YOUNGER SELF

Dear Ivan

This is advice that your grandmother, your closest friend, will tell you and you should listen to it. One day she will pass on, but before she does, she will look at you and say, "Don't you *ever* stop singing!" She gave it up because of her children, and her only regret is that she didn't stick to her guns and continue with music. The day she passes will be the most moving of your life and you will forever feel her hand on your shoulder, reassuring you, so make sure you listen to her advice and keep going.

Good luck!

Ivan

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SKINDRED

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What does it feel like stepping out in front of thousands? What does The Newport Helicopter look like from the stage? What does Benji mean when he says, "It was one of those nights where we got beamed up by The Mothership"? And why the hell did drummer Arya Goggin once punch guitarist Mikey Demus square in the jaw?

This is Skindred's story from day one, right up to the present day – including chaos, unity, fist-fights, knife-attacks, spiked-jackets and all.

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HEROES OF 2015

Josh Dun & Tyler Joseph

TWENTY ØNE PILØTS

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

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HEROES OF 2015

Billie Joe Armstrong

GREEN DAY

PHOTO: ICONICPIX/KEVIN ESTRADA

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HEROES OF 2015

Chrissy Costanza

AGAINST THE CURRENT

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THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TWENTY ONE PILØTS A TO M

NOT SINCE MCR HAS ROCK SEEN A WORLD AS RICH AND ROUNDED AS THE ONE CREATED BY TYLER JOSEPH AND JOSH DUN. SO, IF YOU WANT TO KNOW YOUR BLURRYFACE FROM YOUR KATAMARI DAMACY, STEP THIS WAY…

WORDS: EMILY CARTER, GEORGE GARNER **PHOTOS:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY

ALL MY SØNS, BY ARTHUR MILLER

What's in a name? A lot, if you happen to be twenty one pilots. Their band name's taken from the 1947 play All My Sons by revered American writer Arthur Miller. The specific amount of pilots in question? That's the number of aviation deaths the protagonist is held accountable for after making malfunctioning plane parts.

BLURRYFACE

Not just the name of twenty one pilots' blockbusting 2015 fourth album, it's also the name of the alter ego of Tyler Joseph. Blurryface, explained Tyler to K! back in June, is "the voice inside that tells you you're not good enough". He's explicitly introduced on Stressed Out.

BASKETBALL

Tyler used to be really good at basketball. Like, *really* good. His intention growing up was to get a scholarship into college through basketball, but eventually he took up the piano and… Well, you know the rest.

CAR RADIØ

Released on both their second and third albums, 2011's Regional At Best and 2013's Vessel respectively, Car Radio is a Fan-Favourite with a capital F. Well, two Fs. In a Vessel album commentary, Tyler says, "There's really no structure to it that's similar to any other song I've heard before, in the sense that there's really no chorus. But it makes sense to me."

CHRISTINA PERRI

Tyler covered American singer-songwriter Christina Perri's huge pop smash Jar Of Hearts when twenty one pilots first started. In fact, this was the first video on the band's YouTube account, ever.

DRUM ISLAND

One of the standout moments of every TØP show comes when Josh Dun leaves his kit to play on a custom-made drum island during Ride. That is held up by the front row. Being one of the people beneath this flotilla is fast becoming a badge of honour for fans.

EMØTIØNAL RØADSHØW

The name of TØP's current mega-tour, which is just getting bigger and bigger. Did you hear that they've just announced *two* dates at New York's Madison Square Garden? And they've already sold one of them out. AND THE GIG ISN'T UNTIL NEXT AUGUST.

ELVIS PRESLEY

Ah, another twenty one pilots cover. But this one, which you can check out on the 2013 Holding On To You EP, is a version of the Elvis Presley hit Can't Help Falling In Love which is fast-becoming a live favourite.

FUELED BY RAMEN

TØP teamed up with the Atlantic Records' subsidiary back in 2012, joining a roster including Panic! At The Disco and Paramore, and it's been a dream combo ever since.

FAIRLY LØCAL

Upon its release, Blurryface's lead single, Fairly Local, threw fans – especially as we were introduced to the album's titular character for the first time. That said, it's actually an awesome nod to twenty one pilots' fans, as Tyler labels them '*the few, the proud, the emotional*' throughout.

GØNER

The heart-stopping final track on Blurryface stands proudly as one of twenty one pilots' finest moments, approaching the sort of naked introspection of Nine Inch Nails circa 1999 double album, The Fragile. No rapping. No genre-bending. Just Tyler and a haunting piano.

GRANDPARENTS

Those two old chaps you can see on the front of Vessel [*below*]? They're Tyler and Josh's grandads. "I think about the idea of getting old," Tyler explains. "Death isn't just this thing that you have to stop talking about and make awkward. Like, it's going to happen – why are we so afraid to talk about it?"

HANDSHAKE

Tyler and Josh's overblown handshake in the video for Stressed Out has seen fans from all over the globe practicing it to absolute perfection – and even joining the band onstage to do it with Josh.

HAZMAT SUITS

On hit single Lane Boy, Tyler raps, '*I'm sorry if that question I asked last, scared you a bit like a hazmat in a gas mask*' – hence, when they play it live, they often have two blokes in full-on hazmat suits and gas masks dancing beside them. Sadly, they didn't make an appearance in the UK. Booooo.

HØUSE ØF HERØES

Before Josh Dun became THE ABSOLUTE COOLEST DRUMMER IN MUSIC, he was a temporary member of local alternative rockers House Of Heroes, after their former drummer, Colin Rigsby, took some time out to be with his family. Eight months later and Colin returned, leaving Josh to find a new band. Just under a year on, Josh found himself as full-time drummer for twenty one pilots…

IMPLICIT DEMAND FØR PRØØF

The opening track on twenty one pilots' 2009 debut self-titled album, Implicit Demand For Proof sets the tone for the first full-length featuring Tyler and his then-bandmates Nick Thomas and Chris Salih. It's by no means the best song on the album, but if it doesn't give you goosebumps, then there's probably something wrong with you.

JØSH DUN

While frontman Tyler Joseph is the main ideas man behind all things twenty one pilots, the 27-year-old is a drumming sensation and also a part-time trumpeter (he played in middle school, and recently brought back his skills for album tracks We Don't Believe What's On TV and Not Today on Blurryface). But he wasn't always the coolest man in alternative rock – he actually used to skate to a nearby record store in Columbus and ask the most tattooed-looking guy in there for music recommendations as a kid. Random fact alert: if you listen very closely, you'll hear bandmate Tyler yell Josh's name at 4:25 during The Judge, as he was standing on the other side of the glass when the take was recorded. So there.

KITCHEN SINK

'*Here's my brother and his head's screwed up, but that's alright*', Tyler raps before his brother, Zac Joseph [*pictured above onstage with Tyler*], makes a killer cameo on this Vessel bonus track. In terms of the lyrical content, Tyler likes to keep the meaning of this one close to his chest, with "something important" in life happening to him at a kitchen sink.

KATAMARI DAMACY

What do you mean, you've not heard of Katamari Damacy? Well, it's a video game that means a lot to Josh Dun – in fact, it's something he uses to process his own fame. We'll let him explain. "You start out and you have a little dude who lives in a town and the goal is to build a star. You'll get anything you can – bowling balls, sheep, whatever – and you roll it into a ball that gets bigger and bigger. Sometimes I think about that game when I think about our fans. The goal is for a larger amount of people as this star is being built."

LØGØ

Does twenty one pilots' little stick logo look like nothing to you? Well, it shouldn't. In Tyler's mind, it's "an encouragement for people to create… It doesn't have to be artistic, but if you create something and only you know the meaning of it, that's the beginning of purpose for you." Helpful? Excellent.

MASKS

Why do Tyler and Josh wear ski masks onstage and in their videos? What inspired them? Really, when the pair first started out on the live circuit, they found themselves playing to uninterested crowds and bored bartenders. So, they caught their attention with their outfits – and then drew them in. It also makes their music more 'faceless', to an extent.

MTV AWARDS

TØP are quickly becoming as much of a feature at MTV shindigs as Taylor Swift's fake-shocked face when she collects her 50th gong of any given evening. Not only did they play at the VMA Awards this past August – running through Heavydirtysoul and Lane Boy with A$AP Rocky – but they also played at the MTV Movie Awards in 2014, too.

Next week: part two of our Encyclopedia Of Twenty One Pilots tackles the Skeleton Clique and, er, the 'Walking Human Emoji'…

L – R: Adam Burton, Andrew Groves, THE ANGEL OF DEATH!, Jack Wrench

"IF OUR BAND DIED TOMORROW, WE COULD BE PROUD"

ANDREW GROVES

INTERVIEW

HEAVIER TH

THEIR BRILLIANT NEW EP, HEAVEN & EARTH, ISN'T JUST ANOTHER LEAP FORWARD FOR **ARCANE ROOTS**, IT'S A SPIRITUAL REBIRTH…

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE **PHOTO:** PAUL HARRIES

Andrew Groves runs his hand over a cracked, weathered tombstone, shuffles his feet through the autumn leaves that carpet the grounds of London's Nunhead Cemetery and draws a breath.

"Y'know, I feel like if this thing, our band, died tomorrow, we could be proud of what we've achieved and the way we achieved it," hums Arcane Roots' frontman and creative lightning rod. "The way we measure success and failure has definitely changed over the years. It's an age thing, maybe, but we're no longer fussed about being the biggest band in the world, or anything like that. We just want to write and play songs we like to people who enjoy them. When you realise how simple that can be, it's quite a powerful thing."

As Andrew and his bandmates – bassist Adam Burton and recently joined drummer Jack Wrench – continue to amble between the graves, all polite laughter and good grace, they cut the figure of a band who have never been more comfortable, either in themselves or their creative skin.

You see, Arcane Roots have long been a diamond in the rough; a well-kept secret beloved by those in the know and capable of soaring musical feats that most performers would hack several limbs off to achieve. Never the biggest band, but one full of truly virtuosic talent.

However, this year's Heaven & Earth EP saw the London-based trio moving into unfamiliar territory, pushing their envelope beyond what even established fans might have expected and, in doing so, shaking up what feels possible within Camp Roots.

"We moved away from our label and went really out on our own," notes Andrew, reflecting on Heaven & Earth's more expansive and experimental stylings.

"That was hugely important for us, it removed a bit of pressure, I think, and let us try and focus on putting together a song that, say, an entire arena of Italians could jump around to! Again, in lots of ways it was about making things more simple. To see people reacting so positively to something we did genuinely independently has been incredibly rewarding. It's put some spark back, to be honest."

It was a spark that, for a period of time, had sadly waned.

"I'll admit that doing our first album [2013's Blood & Chemistry] was a really tough experience," sighs Andrew. "I put so much stress on myself to make it this perfect, incredible thing because, in my head, you only get one shot at making a debut. After that came out, I didn't really

FAMOUS LAST *Words*

ARCANE ROOTS' HEADSTONE LEGENDS

ADAM BURTON

I TOLD YOU I WAS ILL

"It's a Spike Milligan classic. It always makes me laugh, so it would be good to share that humour."

ANDREW GROVES

YOU JUST DIDN'T WANT IT ENOUGH

"This has become kind of a catchphrase of mine. Like, someone would go, 'I want to grow another arm,' and gets told they can't, and I always say, 'Ah, you just don't want it enough!'"

JACK WRENCH

ARE YOU WATCHING CLOSELY?

"I'd kinda like this to be my last words as well. It's taken from the film The Prestige where Christian Bale's character just kinda… disappears. It would be a wicked line to finish it all on!"

HAN *Heaven*

listen to rock music for getting on for two years because I was kinda sick of it. From there, I think we used to get wound up about not being as big or successful as we felt like we ought to be, especially when you see so much absolute crap doing really well."

"I'm glad that we've been able to let that go, though," adds Andrew, the flicker of a smile playing at the corners of his mouth. "We are much happier within ourselves now and I feel like it shows."

The fact remains, though, that Arcane Roots are, at this moment in time at least, not as big as their undeniable talent suggests they ought to be. Do the band themselves have any theories as to why their breakthrough has yet to materialise?

"We're not an image-led band at all," shrugs Andrew by way of explanation.

"We're three normal guys who all dress kinda smartly but apart from that maybe aren't that distinctive," chimes Adam. "But, to be honest, I think if you start dressing up in a certain way for the sake of some marketing ploy, people can see through that disingenuousness very quickly."

What about the fact that, to put it bluntly, Andrew bares a striking resemblance to Biffy Clyro's Simon Neil? Does he worry about being labelled a copycat?

"Well, frankly, I'm not as good-looking as Simon!" laughs the singer. "I've had a beard since I was about 15, and I've always played Fender guitars. Again, if I start changing myself to fit into someone else's box a little easier, people would see that for what it is."

What is clear, though, is that Arcane Roots certainly do not fit the stereotypical image of a rampaging rock'n'roll band with a penchant for chaotic binging.

"I don't drink, and Adam maybe has a couple of drinks once a month," shrugs Andrew. "When we are playing live I want to give the people who have paid to see us the absolute best thing I can. I can't do that if I've had a drink or I've not prepared properly."

Is efficiency what the band think people want in their rockstars, then?

"Well, I see this as my job, my profession," nods Andrew. "So yes, I think people want me to do the best job I can. If you want some trendy, good-looking, hard-drinking band, then don't listen to us. I'm fine with that, honestly. But I think there are plenty of people out there who *do* want what we do, which is something honest and pure and full of craft and hard work."

Indeed, with a beautifully assembled and critically acclaimed EP now turning heads, and a second full-length record on the way, it does feel like Arcane Roots' moment in the sun could be close. So, does the next 12 months represent crunch time for the band? Reap the ultimate reward or be forever six feet under in a graveyard of also-rans?

"It definitely feels like a massively important time for us," surmises Andrew. "But we know that we're producing the best art of our career. We've done it our way and will always, always continue to do so."

And that, more than anything, is something that can never be buried.

HEAVEN & EARTH IS AVAILABLE NOW VIA SONY

THE SONGS THAT SAVED MY LIFE

HOW DO YOU MAKE A NEW BROKEN SCENE? WELL, YOU NEED A GOOD STARTING POINT. GREEN DAY? GOOD CHARLOTTE? THAT'LL DO NICELY. BUT WHAT'S THIS YOU'VE GOT HIDDEN AWAY THERE, LUKE? SECRET 5SOS STUFF…?

THIS WEEK: LUKE HEMMINGS 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME THINK OF HOME IS...

YOU BE THE ANCHOR...

MAYDAY PARADE

"This is kind of a curveball, but when I was younger I always used to listen to Mayday Parade. I still do now, actually. Mayday Parade were, like, the first band where I properly listened to the harmonies and stuff like that. There's a song of theirs called You Be The Anchor…, and it really reminds me of home. Anything off their A Lesson In Romantics album – I'd always listen to that album on the bus on the way back from school."

FIND IT: A Lesson In Romantics (2007)

THE SONG THAT I'D LIKE TO COVER IS...

I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR

U2

"I'd love to do a U2 song – I really like that band. I'd maybe do Vertigo or I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For. They're just great pop songs and stadium anthems, and I'd love to see an arena or somewhere bigger have this kind of music – but with a younger audience. Would we make it a pop-punk version? No, I think we'd keep the epicness of it, I think that style really suits us – not saying we're U2 or anything! But we just like that straight-up alternative-rock sound."

FIND IT: The Joshua Tree (1987)

THE SONG THAT MADE US THE MOST CASH IS...

SHE LOOKS SO PERFECT

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER

"I don't know – we've not really seen any money! First of all it takes, like, a year to come through… But yeah, I haven't really seen anything from our music yet, although this was a big song."

FIND IT: 5 Seconds Of Summer (2014)

THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO BE A MUSICIAN IS...

HOLD ON

GOOD CHARLOTTE

"I think it would probably be something by Good Charlotte. They were the first band that I actually loved and was a huge fan of. I think I'll say Hold On from The Young And The Hopeless. My dad took me to see them when I was young – I saw them in Sydney. I used to have their first album, the [2000] self-titled one, as well as The Young And The Hopeless, on my Discman back then. I guess you could say it was them who made me want to be a musician and start a band, yeah."

FIND IT: The Young And The Hopeless (2002)

THE SONG WITH THE GREATEST LYRICS EVER IS...

JESUS OF SUBURBIA

GREEN DAY

"Oh, that's a big call… She Looks So Perfect (*laughs*)! No, I'm joking! Probably Jesus Of Suburbia by Green Day. It captures this genius concept of this fucking terrible place… I think it captures that suburban life – Jesus Of Suburban Life, you could say – in an incredible way. And it's, like, five songs in one!"

FIND IT: American Idiot (2004)

THE SONG I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR IS...

JET BLACK HEART

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER

"I really love this one. It's just a straight-up rock song with an incredible melody and great lyrics. It's got a great meaning. Mikey [Clifford, guitar/vocals] and Calum [Hood, bass/vocals] wrote the lyrics – they did a great job."

FIND IT: Sounds Good Feels Good (2015)

"SOME OF OUR REJECTED SONGS ARE AWFUL!"

LUKE HEMMINGS

WORDS: EMILY CARTER

THE SONG I WISH I HADN'T RECORDED IS...

IT'S A SECRET...

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER

"Probably one that we haven't released! I mean, anything we haven't released, I wished we hadn't recorded. There are a few sessions you go into and they'll try and make you do a certain thing. If you're young and haven't done anything like that before, you're like, 'Maybe they're right, maybe I should just follow it…' and you get the song back and it's fucking awful!"

FIND IT: Nowhere, if Luke has anything to do with it…

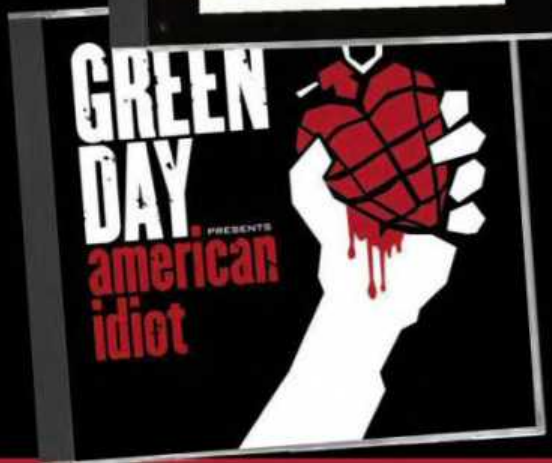
THE LAST SONG I LISTENED TO WAS...

GET OVER IT

LOWER THAN ATLANTIS

"It's actually related to England – the new Lower Than Atlantis single. I heard this for the first time this morning, and I think it's great – it's really cool. I wasn't a big fan of them before the pink-cover album [last year's self-titled] and I didn't listen to them too much back then, but that album is really great."

FIND IT: Lower Than Atlantis (The Black Edition) (2015)



THE SONG YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT TO SEE ON MY IPOD IS...

NOTHING BUT TROUBLE

LIL WAYNE & CHARLIE PUTH

"Let me just have a look… (*Scrolls through phone*) The new Lil Wayne single! I mean, that's the only one of his I know, but it's pretty great. Or maybe something by Mumford & Sons, too. I love their song The Cave."

FIND IT: 808: The Music (2015)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO STAGE-DIVE IS...

LITTLE THINGS

GOOD CHARLOTTE

"Maybe something by The Clash? Or Basket Case by Green Day… That works – I'll take that! Or anything by Nirvana. Actually, you know what, I'm going to pick another Good Charlotte song. I'd say Little Things – it's just got that raw teen angst. If you listen to it on your headphones, it really makes you want to smash some stuff up and get angry (*laughs*)."

FIND IT: Good Charlotte (2000)

THE BEST SONG EVER IS...

VERTIGO U2

"It's got to be Vertigo by U2. I mean, there are endless hooks in this song, a great guitar riff which comes in on the verse, it's got a great chorus, great lyrics, it's something you can chant in a stadium… And then, when it gets to the second verse, where maybe a song would start to get boring, they just throw in another hook! And then, after the bridge, there's another hook. There are endless things for the crowd to chant along to. I think it's genius."

FIND IT: How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb (2004)

ANATOMY OF A ROCKSTAR

ROB HALFORD
JUDAS PRIEST

BEHOLD: THE ONE AND ONLY METAL GOD. BUT WHAT TURNED HIM INTO ONE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

fig.1

GROWING UP IN THE WEST MIDLANDS WAS...

"Pretty bleak, because there were not a lot of opportunities in those days. I count myself lucky because I had a great family, but generally the lads in the family ended up working at the same factories as their dads, and so you were always looking for a way out."

fig.2

THE THING SOBRIETY HAS TAUGHT ME IS...

"My 30th sober birthday is in January, and a big part of that is about living in the now. Forget about yesterday – use what yesterday gave to you. You don't know what's going to happen in the future, but through my faith I have a strong feeling all the time that everything's going to be okay. Honestly, I'm at a point in my life where I feel really happy with where I am."

fig.3

BEING ABLE TO HELP OUT UP-AND-COMING BANDS IS...

"Something I love, because people did that for us, too. AC/DC took us out on an early tour of Europe in the late '70s, just before we made British Steel, I think, and when Robert Plant said he wanted us to open for [Led Zeppelin] it helped make us on the west coast of America."

fig.4

THE BEST THING ABOUT HAVING HOMES IN THREE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IS...

"They all offer a unique point of view! I've got a flat in Amsterdam – the canals are beautiful and I love the Dutch people. Then there's my home in Phoenix, Arizona. I'll never forget first arriving there in '78, getting off the bus at 4am and it still being 110 degrees. Living there, coyotes, scorpions and rattlesnakes are my backyard pets – in Walsall all I've got are two slugs and a snail."

"SCORPIONS AND RATTLESNAKES ARE MY BACKYARD PETS!"

● ROB HALFORD ●

fig.5

I RIDE A BIKE ONSTAGE BECAUSE...

"Judas Priest wanted to put an extreme visual look next to the extreme sound we had. The bike was a big part of that. Early on, the idea came about of bringing a bike onstage and dressing up in all that leather… and it just took off from there. We're very proud that Priest are always referenced as the band that created the 'heavy metal' look. Priest have always been very determined to give our fans the very best show we can give."

fig.6

COMING OUT AS GAY...

"Was massively life-changing. I recently had a really moving letter from a guy who came to a show, who's in his 40s and feels like he can't come out because of his fear that his family and mates will reject him, and he's going through exactly what I went through. The terrible thing about that is that you start living life on other people's terms, and if you can, you've really got to find a way to break that wall down and set yourself free. I was never questioned like Freddie Mercury was, but there was innuendo and snickerings behind my back, and coming out defuses all that stuff. People can't attack you any more, because you are who you are."

fig.7

MY SPIRITUAL FAITH IS...

"Really important to me. As a lyricist, I don't really touch on that in a black-and-white way, but a lot of my songs do contain this very simple message of good conquering evil. Whether it's a war situation, terrorists, climate change, it's the good stuff that always rises to the top. The challenge is to make that happen. I think that is at the heart of a lot of faith-based religions. It doesn't matter if you're Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, the message is there."

fig.8

MY DESERT ISLAND RECORD IS...

"Black Sabbath's Paranoid [1970]. There are so many possibilities, and I'm tempted to pick one that's a got a little bit of everything, but really it's got to be *heavy*, so it has to be this one. It's got the purest qualities of metal in every way, it's Tony's riffs, it's Ozzy's voice, the words, the rhythm section. I can honestly say I'd love to be banging my head to War Pigs on a desert island!"

fig.9

BEING REVERED AS THE METAL GOD IS...

"Brilliant, isn't it? I was headed to the supermarket in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and I threw on a hoodie and shorts, and as I was leaving the hotel, the girl working reception said to me, 'Rob, you're not going out like that, are you? In those shorts you'll freeze everything!' I turned to her and said, 'I'm the Metal God. I'm made of metal, and so is my cock.' That's with me all the time, I get so much love from fans around referencing this Metal God figure, and that means a lot to me – and I've actually trademarked that name, there can be only one Metal God."

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: ANDY GALLAGHER

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RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

MEGADETH/ LAMB OF GOD

PLUS: CHILDREN OF BODOM, SYLOSIS
SSE ARENA WEMBLEY, LONDON. 14.11.15
KKKK

POWERHOUSE PACKAGE DEFEATS BLACK SATURDAY WITH MUSCLE AND METAL

TICKETHOLDERS FOR tonight's four-band metal extravaganza don't need to be told that, for a little while at least, the business of going to a gig has changed. This evening at Wembley, audience members are treated to a body search, while the bleu, blanc et rouge of the French tricolour reflect on the concrete from the arch of the National Stadium across the way, reminding us of the tragic events in Paris on what should have been a normal Friday night. Up on the arena stage, meanwhile, openers Sylosis say a heartfelt word for the stricken City Of Light, in between the thrashing din that earns their title 'The Shredding From Reading'. Children Of Bodom further energise the audience, with virtuosic music played by men who look as if they're pissed. Perhaps it would be better to say that their effect is one of intoxication.

Lamb Of God, however, offer stronger medicine indeed. Fortified by a brilliant sound, songs like Walk With Me In Hell, Set To Fail and – most of all – Redneck show that it is possible to enjoy mainstream success while making music that sounds like a bulldozer. Theirs is a thing of precision and punishment, as well as implacable integrity. Oh, and in Randy Blythe they have the most commanding metal frontman since a young James Hetfield first walked onto an arena stage. The manner in which he addresses the audience with his thoughts on the atrocities, unleashed on a city just one train ride from London, manages to be both mindful and measured, as well as excoriating. It's fine to be afraid, come his words, but not so afraid that you can no longer live your own life, and it's okay to be angry, but only if the anger is used smartly, and on deserving targets. Rousing and reasonable, tonight the SSE Arena, Wembley second these sentiments, and the motion is carried.

Back in the 20th Century, Megadeth were the least consistent live band in metal. But if you were lucky enough to catch them on one of their better nights, the sights and sounds equated to something legendary. And so it is tonight, with Hangar 18 and Wake Up Dead turned loose in the set's opening act, along with In My Darkest Hour and Tornado Of Souls, more riffs in each track than many bands muster in a whole album, or sometimes a career.

Alas, tonight the set is under 90 minutes, in which we see that mainman Dave Mustaine is still crazy after all these leers, and are reminded of his high standing in the firmament of sharp-edged metal. As the night begins to embark on its conclusion, guitarist Kiko Loureiro plays a poignant and corrupted interpretation of France's La Marseillaise, before Dave turns loose the riff to Holy Wars… The Punishment Due – one of the best metal songs ever written.

'*Brother will kill brother, spilling blood across the land…*' sings Dave Mustaine, as if he were reading the news. As he does so, 10,000 people end their congregation with a volume that stands united, for now, against the violence that sadly still stalks us.

WORDS: IAN WINWOOD **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY

It was time to tell Dave his sideburns were getting out of control

"Alright!" admitted Megadeth's Dave Ellefson, "I'm the onstage farter!"

STAR SHOUT!

RANDY BLYTHE

(LAMB OF GOD, VOCALS)

AFTER THE ATTACKS IN PARIS, DOES IT FEEL STRANGE TO BE PLAYING TONIGHT?
"Contextually speaking, yes. We've been to Paris, of course, and we've played the Bataclan. We have to understand that people went to see a show yesterday and, because of that, they lost their lives. So, we've got to make a decision as to whether it's safe even to do this, and of course we will consider that. Because the last thing we would want to do is to put people in peril."

GIVEN THE TERRIBLE EVENT AND ITS AWFUL IMPLICATIONS, WHAT IS YOUR JOB AS A PERFORMER AT A TIME SUCH AS THIS?
"I guess my job is to carry on doing what we do. We know what happened yesterday was horrifying, it was beyond comprehension, so I'm trying to keep some sense of perspective about this. People are being killed for doing things they enjoy, good things, and I don't want to surrender to the fear that these people are meaning to spread. I think if I can encourage people to stand strong with me, then at least we can win that battle"

Randy Blythe's shoelaces were ridiculously long

Primordial's audition for The Walking Dead was going well

DAMNATION FESTIVAL

IT'S EVEN GRIMMER UP NORTH AS UNDERGROUND METAL'S FINEST ENVELOP LEEDS IN 50 SHADES OF HEAVY

WORDS: SAM LAW **PHOTOS:** ANDY GALLAGHER

At least one punter missed the on-site barber's

■THE HEAVY. The underground. The extreme. They're the foundations on which Leeds' Damnation Festival has grown from one-day wonder to essential annual pilgrimage. Opening this 11th edition in a hail of bludgeoning death metal riffage, Essex brutalists **THE KING IS BLIND (KKKK)** get the beers flowing early. Brighton doomsters **SEA BASTARD (KKKK)** slow the pace, but their tectonic relentlessness proves pulverisingly absorbing anyway. There's a rare glimmer of light as Leicester instrumentalists **MAYBESHEWILL (KKKKK)** sign off one of their final festival appearances with a stunningly euphoric flourish. It's short-lived, mind, as legendary Dutch crushers **ASPHYX (KKKK)** are on hand to detonate some utter chaos – tracks like Death-Hammer and Wasteland Of Terror proving alarmingly aptly titled. There's no let-up as a predictably shirtless Matt Pike leads **HIGH ON FIRE (KKKK)** through a riotous slab of stoner-metal excellence. This year's Carcosa and Luminiferous rattle the teeth, but it's the Motörhead-on-steröids attack of Snakes For The Divine that really gets hairy heads banging.

There's far more subtlety to Irish pagan-metal masters **PRIMORDIAL (KKKKK)**, who step up to the second stage headline slot with a tangible air of dark majesty. Babel's Tower, As Rome Burns, Empire Falls – all epic metal songs brought to life by frontman A.A. Nemtheanga, perhaps underground's finest frontman.

All that's left is for Gothenburg melodeath

High On Fire: Low On Shirts

At The Gates somehow managed to juggle metal with cricket umpiring

legends **AT THE GATES (KKKKK)** to smash the place into the ground. "GO!" screams frontman Tomas Lindberg as Slaughter Of The Soul bursts into life and every last rind of energy gets spent in the fittingly cataclysmic final pit. From Under A Serpent Sun, to Blinded By Fear, to The Night Eternal, it's a nonstop metal masterclass.

Same time next year? Well, hopefully our bangovers will have healed by then. Hopefully…

THE AMITY AFFLICTION

PLUS: DEFEATER, BEING AS AN OCEAN

GARAGE, GLASGOW. 10.11.15

KKKK

METALCORE PACKAGE WELCOMES GLASGOW TO THE GLOBAL BREAKDOWN

HARDCORE RULES the earth! A bit much? Maybe. But you'd hardly know given the bi-continental feast on offer at this year's Impericon Never Say Die! Tour. Californian smashers Being As An Ocean surge on early, representing the U.S. West Coast with a tsunami-swell of fathomless catharsis, defiantly humanist hearts beating beneath their waves of crashing force. They're minnows next to Boston bruisers Defeater, though. All wiry energy and grimacing angst, the quartet swing and gurn with impressive authority. Barbed laments like Bastards and Dear Father can be counted among modern hardcore's best tunes – even if there's an odd indifference from the energy-sapped crowd. Fortunately, Brisbane beach-bruisers The Amity Affliction don't take long chucking some well-marinated riffs on the barbie. Singer Ahren Stringer might be wearing a Cannibal Corpse shirt, but it's his syrup-throated vocals that deliciously coat an otherwise relentless 10-track attack. Kicking off with the avalanching breakdowns of Open Letter and not letting up for a second, The Amity Affliction claim tonight's Intercontinental Title – reaffirming Australia's status as world leader in contemporary mosh-metal.

SAM LAW

BLACKBERRY SMOKE

02 ACADEMY, GLASGOW. 09.11.15

KKK

GEORGIA COWBOYS WARM THE SOUL WITH SOME OLD-TIME COUNTRY ROCK'N'ROLL

GUSTING WINDS. Torrential rain. The first toothy bite of winter cold. Tonight, Glasgow must look every bit the end of the line for the men of Blackberry Smoke – a band of blokes more used to the mild skies and bourbon warmth of their home state of Georgia. But this is a band simply too high to get low. "It's the last night of the tour," grins spectacularly-mutton-chopped frontman Charlie Starr, "let's make it a good 'un!"' And that they do. Kicking off with the grooving, spit'n'sawdust cowboy-rock of Six Ways To Sunday and not letting up, we get snarling bar-brawl soundtrack Leave A Scar, the high-noon swagger of Payback's A Bitch and the signature chaos of Holding All The Roses; this is a good ol' fashioned Southern rock party straight from the hazy summer of '72. Only a sprawling mash-up of Sleeping Dogs and Led Zeppelin's Your Time Is Gonna Come dents the momentum, but even that's pretty awesome. There's more hero-worship with an encore revolving around Black Sabbath's Fairies Wear Boots, but the twilight twang of Too High and Ain't Much Left Of Me's whiskey glow affirm they've plenty of denim-clad crackers of their own – sepia-stained, sure, but with just enough millennial ballast to melt the ice and blow away the winter blues.

SAM LAW

RADKEY

PLUS: GOD DAMN

BARFLY, LONDON. 05.11.15

KKKK

THE ROCK'N'ROLL BAND OF BROTHERS HIT CAMDEN WITH SONGS IN THE KEY OF RAD

AS THE brothers Radkey stand in front of this sweaty London crowd at the end of a year relentlessly touring debut Dark Black Makeup over 45 cities, eight countries and thousands of miles, it's clear they've come a long way from their bedroom beginnings in Missouri. This isn't bedroom rock. And despite the greasiness, it's not even garage rock – this is simply rock to rock your arse off to. And that's without the opening riffs of Wolverhampton weirdos God Damn, whose set is an explosive caterwaul of pterodactyl screams and dimension-warping guitar. Seriously, plug the TARDIS into an amp and it would sound like these two riff monsters. Radkey, meanwhile, sound more like the Ramones if they were in a Saturday morning cartoon show, dishing out spine-jerking, sleazy punk with the fizzy energy of a Catherine wheel. The rumbling groove of Love Spills gets bodies moving before they give Depeche Mode's Personal Jesus a riffy boot up the arse. But it's helter-skelter headbanger Romance Dawn that really opens up the pit and closes the night with bouncing bassist Isaiah crowd-surfing all the way to the bar. With more thrillingly greasy tunes like these, they might have the (Rad)key to crushing places bigger than this.

JAMES MACKINNON

Benji Webbe: Definitely went to Spikesavers

STAR SHOUT!

BENJI WEBBE

(SKINDRED, VOCALS)

THIRTEEN YEARS OF INSANE GIGS. CAN YOU KEEP GOING FOREVER?

"Why should you stop? Whenever we turn up, people wanna hear us. We play the game with the cards we've been dealt – we want people to enjoy themselves, to move around and just forget about the bullshit for a bit."

HOW MUCH FURTHER CAN YOU TAKE IT?

"What I really want is to headline festivals, brother! I believe we're the kind of band that could do that all over the world. People need more joy in their lives, and Skindred is a band that gives it to them!"

Crossfaith's air-saxophone: ace

SKINDRED

PLUS: CROSSFAITH, (HED) P.E., YASHIN

ROCK CITY, NOTTINGHAM. 06.11.15

KKKKK

TWO ROCK MONSTERS BATTLE IT OUT IN NOTTS. BOTH WIN

WORDS: STEVE BEEBEE **PHOTOS:** ANDY GALLAGHER

"WE STAND strong in this gospel we've made – the gospel of rock'n'roll," Skindred frontman Benji Webbe states, building up to Trouble's push-and-pull ragga-rock. While the vibe is always one of divide-smashing unity whenever the 'Dred does its thing, tonight's also a clash of titans, a chance to see two genuinely awe-inspiring acts butting heads on the same stage.

Openers Yashin join the screamo dots, while (hed) p.e.'s angry rapcore crossover offers a smidgeon of star quality, but it's no more than a warm-up for the main event. Crossfaith have barely half an hour, but frankly they could have played for five minutes and still made their point. With each member of the band convinced that he is the rightful frontman, they crush, bombard, delight and generally assault the senses. After Xeno (incredible) and Countdown To Hell (monster-sized), Benji steps out to guest on Wildfire before a delirious cover of The Prodigy's Omen sends fans reeling outside for air. It is, in a word, unbe-fuckin'-lievable.

What kind of band could follow that? Only the sort that stand out from the crowd just as markedly now as they did over a decade ago. Skindred sound like nobody else, a strength that has justifiably seen them embraced and respected. Benji's a top ringmaster, and the knockout blows of Roots Rock Riot and Rat Race are just opening rounds. Later, we're treated to Volume, the hugely shoutable title track from their new album, and Kill The Power, another dunking, slamming anthem for anyone who's ever felt a bit 'different'. Skindred might have the strength to destroy all before them, but tonight they're all about bringing us together. Amen to that.

REVIEWS

RATINGS

KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

STONE SOUR

STRAIGHT OUTTA BURBANK *(ROADRUNNER)*

KKK

COREY AND CO PLAY IT STRAIGHT ON THEIR SECOND COVERS EP OF THE YEAR

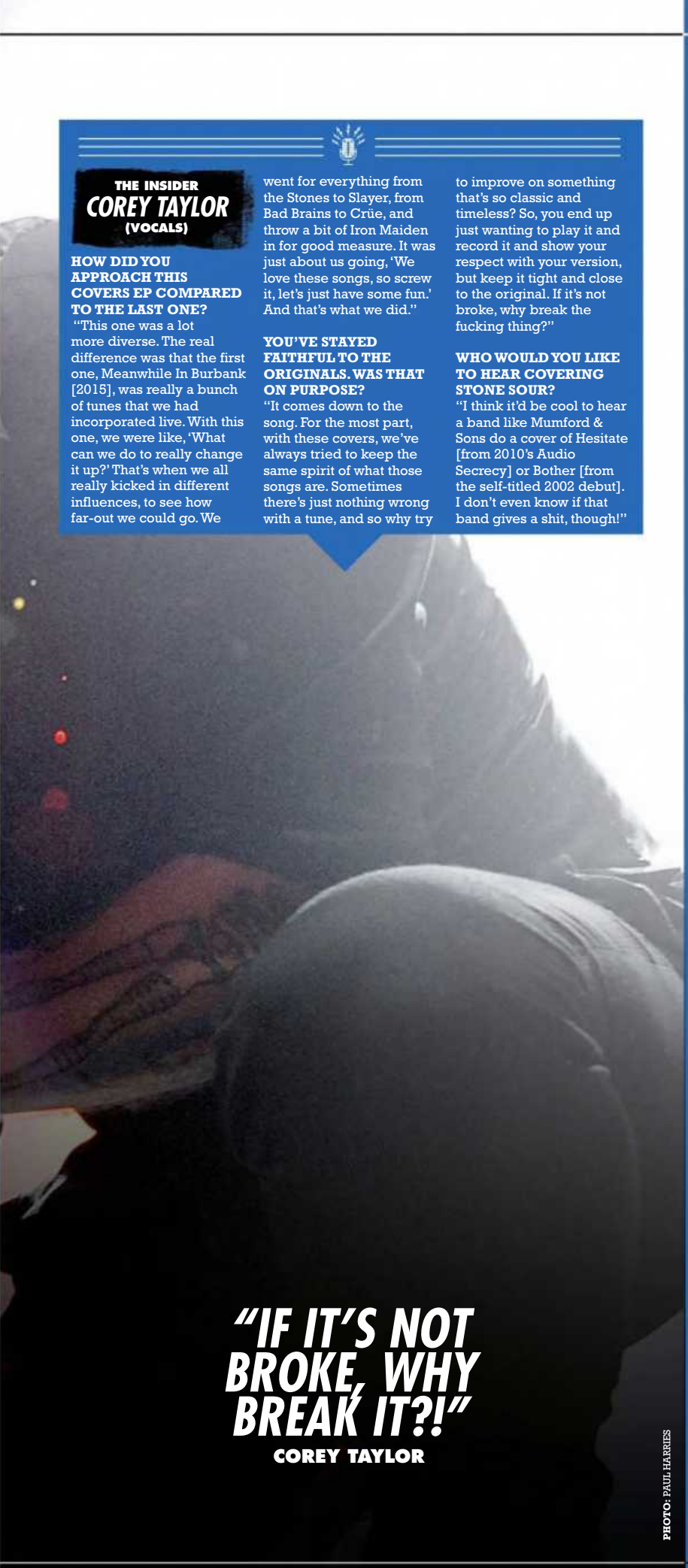
COREY TAYLOR is not a man who likes to settle down and do fuck all. Not content with touring incessantly on Slipknot's hugely successful comeback trail, penning another hilarious diatribe in the shape of his third literary outing You're Making Me Hate You…, and providing the roar for Doctor Who beast the Fisher King, metal's new Renaissance Man – you can think of him as a rougher version of Iron Maiden frontman Bruce Dickinson – is also in the middle of a triple-EP series with Stone Sour.

Released just a few months ago, first outing Meanwhile In Burbank saw the band covering rock and metal classics from the likes of Judas Priest, Metallica and Kiss. Despite the title, Straight Outta Burbank doesn't feature any N.W.A. covers or other stylistic curveballs. It is *slightly* more eclectic in that it reaches back to the swagger of The Rolling Stones and the proto-hardcore of Bad Brains, but this is still very much a continuation of its predecessor's straight bat.

There's nothing wrong with that, of course, or with the fact that they've stuck to *bona fide* classics rather than showing off with obscurities. What you do end up wishing for is a bit more Stone Sour stamp, though – as with Meanwhile In Burbank, these covers are just too faithful. Guitarist Josh Rand has said that the band "tried to recreate the sounds and tones that the original artist used", which is a bit of a shame for anyone wanting to hear a new take on these tunes. We already have Bad Brains playing Sailin' On, and it's brilliant. It's true that Stone Sour's version sounds a bit less like it was recorded in a shed for a fiver, but it's still deliberately lo-fi and doesn't bring much to the table.

Corey even attempts to, ahem, tailor his voice – usually the one undisguisable factor on any cover version – to a rough impersonation of each band's singer. The Paul Di'Anno rasp on Iron Maiden's Running Free probably comes naturally; the Vince Neil squeak on Mötley Crüe's Too Fast For Love, not so much. Lzzy Hale deserves an honourable mention for nailing the diva backing vocals on the Stones' Gimme Shelter, though, which is brilliant. It's all a laugh, but with a little more of Stone Sour's own personality, this could have been so much more.

DOWNLOAD: Running Free.
FOR FANS OF: Iron Maiden, Mötley Crüe.
PAUL TRAVERS



THE INSIDER
COREY TAYLOR
(VOCALS)

HOW DID YOU APPROACH THIS COVERS EP COMPARED TO THE LAST ONE?
"This one was a lot more diverse. The real difference was that the first one, Meanwhile In Burbank [2015], was really a bunch of tunes that we had incorporated live. With this one, we were like, 'What can we do to really change it up?' That's when we all really kicked in different influences, to see how far-out we could go. We went for everything from the Stones to Slayer, from Bad Brains to Crüe, and throw a bit of Iron Maiden in for good measure. It was just about us going, 'We love these songs, so screw it, let's just have some fun.' And that's what we did."

YOU'VE STAYED FAITHFUL TO THE ORIGINALS. WAS THAT ON PURPOSE?
"It comes down to the song. For the most part, with these covers, we've always tried to keep the same spirit of what those songs are. Sometimes there's just nothing wrong with a tune, and so why try to improve on something that's so classic and timeless? So, you end up just wanting to play it and record it and show your respect with your version, but keep it tight and close to the original. If it's not broke, why break the fucking thing?"

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR COVERING STONE SOUR?
"I think it'd be cool to hear a band like Mumford & Sons do a cover of Hesitate [from 2010's Audio Secrecy] or Bother [from the self-titled 2002 debut]. I don't even know if that band gives a shit, though!"

"IF IT'S NOT BROKE, WHY BREAK IT?!"
COREY TAYLOR

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

TRACK BY TRACK

ANTHRAX
SPREADING THE DISEASE: 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION *(UNIVERSAL)*

KKKK

THRASH VETERANS CELEBRATE THEIR BREAKTHROUGH ALBUM'S 30TH BIRTHDAY WITH EXTRA FISTFULS OF METAL

1 *A.I.R.*
1985 was an important year for the nascent thrash metal scene. Slayer and Megadeth released new albums that would become scene cornerstones, and Anthrax released this. It was the New Yorkers' second album, but their first with the classic line-up, and it starts like rabid hounds being released.

2 *LONE JUSTICE*
A huge bass rumble kicks off a tale of Clint Eastwood-y cowboy bad-assery. Bang head!

3 *MADHOUSE*
'It's time for your medication, Mr Brown!' To be served in the form of a truly deranged riff, clearly.

4 *S.S.D./STAND OR FALL*
Eastern melodies and axe histrionics lead into full-on thrash,with big melodic hooks.

5 *THE ENEMY*
It's an admirable anti-Nazi tune, but this is the only piece of filler on the album.

6 *AFTERSHOCK*
More fast thrashing goes off like a nuclear bomb here. Which was also what Anthrax were singing about, like every other '80s thrash band.

7 *ARMED AND DANGEROUS*
Got a quiet intro leading into serious thrash? Okay, sirs, you pass the '80s metal exam.

8 *MEDUSA*
Lots of bands have written songs about weed. Only Anthrax have done so via a chuggy metal slugger centred on the snake-haired Gorgon of Greek legend.

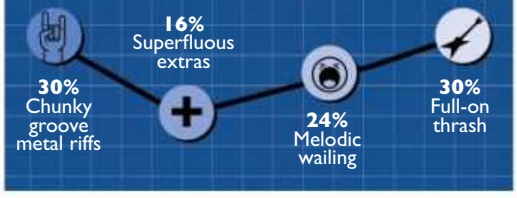
9 *GUNG-HO*
This is essentially the 'Thrax's version of Metallica's Whiplash. And it's a killer way to end the original album.

10 *MEDUSA*
But there's more, starting with a rough, echo-laden demo that makes it sound like you're stuck in a garden shed with singer Joey Belladonna. Great…

11–18 *LIVE AT SUN PLAZA*
And here's a bonus live set from Tokyo! As well as the Spreading The Disease stuff you also get the very metal likes of Metal Thrashing Mad and Soldiers Of Metal. Oof!

19–27 *RHYTHM TRACK TAPE*
To round things off there's a vocal-free 'rhythm track' version of the album. Useful for karaoke, perhaps, but we'll stick with the classic original.

THIS ALBUM IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF…



WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

REVENGE

BEHOLD.TOTAL.REJECTION *(SEASON OF MIST)*

KKKK

BEHOLD. THE. MOST. REMORSELESSLY. BRUTAL. ALBUM. OF. THE. YEAR.

DO YOU like your metal albums to glisten with sparkly production that shines like a flawless diamond, so that every nuance and deft bit of musical skill can truly be heard perfectly? Maybe you like the addition of opera? Perhaps you're looking for some gentle, quiet bits to show off how well beauty works with beast? Then piss off, there is nothing for you here. This is *all* beast. Canada's Revenge are like listening to every Slayer album at once, backwards, in a wind tunnel; music that's meant to attack and offend your ears. But for those who can take the onslaught – and they really do make Converge sound like 5 Seconds Of Summer – Behold. Total.Rejection is one of the most soul-inflamingly aggressive albums to be released in 2015. Feral to the point where the brutal riffs are a hair's breadth from being total mud (but, crucially, maintain the velocity of an asteroid hurtling toward Earth), songs like Wolf Slave Protocol (Choose Your Side) are the very limit of metal extremity. Want something to make Cannibal Corpse seem cosy? Buster, you came to the right place.

DOWNLOAD: Wolf Slave Protocol (Choose Your Side).

FOR FANS OF: Deiphago, Blasphemy, Napalm Death.

NICK RUSKELL

FALSE FLAGS

HEXMACHINE *(SELF-RELEASED)*

KK

LEEDS NOISEMAKERS BOAST BIG BARKS BUT LITTLE BITE ON DISAPPOINTING DEBUT

YOU'D IMAGINE a Hexmachine to be a badass curse-dispensing cyborg from the future. Sort of like if you put Voldemort and a Dalek in a blender, then rebuilt the resulting mush into a robot. Unfortunately, nothing quite as exciting happens on False Flags' debut mini-album. Sure, there are lashings of explosive drums, throttled guitar and rage-stricken yelling, but there's just not enough focus to tie it all together. It shouldn't be possible for such palpable energy to sound monotonous, but one lurching aural battery soon sounds like another. And while the live ferocity of these Leeds harcore scene veterans – including members of Red Stars Parade, Whores Whores Whores and Year Of The Man – may carry them out in the field, on record this Hexmachine sounds like a bulldozer passing a kidney stone.

DOWNLOAD: Fate (Has A Driver).

FOR FANS OF: The Dillinger Escape Plan, Converge, Unsane.

JAMES MACKINNON

LYRIC OF THE WEEK

'You'd rather be home with trapped nerves in your neck'. Whatever it is that Blackpool emos Boston Manor have been doing on a night out, it must be shit if searing neck pain is the better alternative. Stay in making records, guys.

BAND: Boston Manor

SONG: Trapped Nerve

ALBUM: Saudade

SLEEVE OF THE WEEK

This is a painting of Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen attempting to reach the North Pole in the late 19th Century. What's he doing on the cover of Norwegian black metal legend Ihsahn's new album? Representing the epic journey into the unknown the music within takes. Duh.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

GAS MARK 4, MUNCIE GIRLS

Please excuse us while we lose our shit and spend the next six months manically humming this incredible chorus. Yep, the UK's hottest new alt.rock trio are really cooking on gas here.

PHANTASMA

THE DEVIANT HEARTS *(NAPALM)*

KKKK

SYMPHONIC ROCK ACES TURN TO DELAIN FRONTWOMAN FOR ADDED STARDUST

ONE OF those slow-cooking collaborative projects, Phantasma's debut has been built without pressure. It features Delain's eminently likeable singer, Charlotte Wessels, who has managed to stop smiling long enough to not only front this album, but also to write the novella on which it's based. Brilliantly fusing male and female vocals, it's flight of fancy stuff with gorgeous arrangements. Charlotte does more than Try on the song of the same name it's her finest performance to date. Enter Dreamscape boasts early Nightwish pomp, while Carry Me Home and Let It Die are laden with soaring hooks. For those with an ear for the grand, there's nothing here not to like.

DOWNLOAD: Let It Die.

FOR FANS OF: Nightwish, Epica.

STEVE BEEBEE

OUR THEORY

RENAISSANCE *(WE ARE TRIUMPHANT)*

KK

FRENCH METALCORE CREW PLAY IT SAFE ON INDISTINGUISHABLE FIVE-TRACK EP

THE WHOLE judder'n'roar/sing'n'soar thing with or without some electronics thrown in is so ubiquitous right now, it can be hard to judge individual bands on their own merits. Paris' Our Theory adhere to this convention all the way down the line, and certainly don't make it easy distinguishing them. The hulking beast that is Mirror, which kicks off this five-track collection, hits hard and has decent energy and bite, while Wish You Were Here falls flat, its overly generic chorus just too familiar. This inconsistency unfortunately runs through the EP. Genre stalwarts may well find something to love, but it's not about to shake up the status quo.

DOWNLOAD: Mirror.

FOR FANS OF: Beartooth, Bring MeThe Horizon, Emmure.

DAN SLESSOR

BAD POLLYANNA

THE BROKEN TOYS *(PLEDGEMUSIC)*

KKK

AMBITIOUS SECOND ALBUM FROM THEATRICAL YORKSHIRE GOTH-ROCKERS

THE LOST, lonely and bullied are The Broken Toys for whom Yorkshire's Bad Pollyanna speak. As prominent supporters of The Sophie Lancaster Foundation, they're clearly good eggs but what of the music? Their electro-goth trappings show an evident aspiration towards the grandiose theatricality of Evanescence, although they've yet to write their own Bring Me To Life. What they do have is plenty of room to manoeuvre witness their sounds swing from the swerving synth riff of Hooks to the danceable intro to Ugly Love. And if they come up with a few more choruses as poppy as Bionic Heart, Bad Pollyanna could become very good very soon.

DOWNLOAD: Bionic Heart.

FOR FANS OF: Evanescence, PVRIS.

OLLY THOMAS

THE DARKNESS

LAST OF OUR KIND (DELUXE EDITION) *(CANARY DWARF)*

KKKK

NATIONAL TREASURES GET INTO AN EXPANSIVE MOOD FOR CHRISTMAS

ONCE UPON a time, The Darkness were the most popular band in Britain. We're going back more than a decade now, but in 2003 the group released a Christmas single titled Christmas Time (Don't Let The Bells End), a song so daft and naff that the group's vast public began to tire of them almost overnight. It is quite charming, then, to discover that, 12 years on, the Lowestoft rockers are still indulging in seasonal silliness with I Am Santa, a bonus track on the deluxe edition of Last Of Our Kind. This time, though, the song is better, and so are the band. Today, they may be the recipients of less attention than before, but The Darkness are as deft, and as daft, a hard rock band as any.

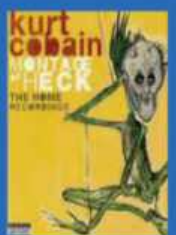
DOWNLOAD: I Am Santa.

FOR FANS OF: Steel Panther, Mötley Crüe, Queen.

IAN WINWOOD

TAPES!

AH, TAPES. Good for compilations, great for copying and frustratingly easy to destroy. No surprise that they were the first casualty of the digital revolution. But tapes are still cool. There's something about them. Even with the advent of MP3s and streaming, they've kept their charm for dedicated collectors. So, props to **BLINK-182** for reissuing **DUDE RANCH (KKKK)**, **ENEMA OF THE STATE (KKKKK)**, **BLINK-182 (KKKK)**, and their **THE MARK,**



ON THE STEREO

1 DON BROCO – NERVE
'*Aaaaa-aaaaah!*' Want to sing along to this? You may need helium and the help of your nearest choirboy. It's high, is what we're saying.

2 BARONESS – SHOCK ME
How's this for shocking: a giant riff and some serious soul? Okay, not that shocking. Really good, though.

3 THE AMITY AFFLICTION – SHINE ON
An enormous load of riffs shaped like fists here. Brutality, hello to you.

4 GOOD CHARLOTTE – MAKESHIFT LOVE
WELCOME BACK, MADDENS! Nice new single you got there…

5 LOWER THAN ATLANTIS – THE REASON
Like you need a reason to hear new LTA. See what we did there?!

A WILL AWAY

BLISS *(TRIPLE CROWN)*

KKK

A LAID BACK INTRODUCTION FROM CONNECTICUT EMO ROCKERS

WITH A title like Bliss and a bright, daisy-fresh opener like Play Dead, A Will Away's second EP sets its stall as a cool, easy-going listen from the off. But it's not without purpose. Having formed four years back, the Connecticut quartet have stirred their pop-punk and emo influences at the bottom of a pot and chosen a shade not dissimilar to that which The Dangerous Summer used to deal in. The five tracks here deal largely in morphine-high hooks that feel worn-in and entirely comfortable from first play, but it's 10 Or 11 that sees some mettle added to Matt Carlson's elastic vocals and serves as the record's high point. A composed and worthwhile introduction.

DOWNLOAD: 10 Or 11.
FOR FANS OF: The Dangerous Summer, The American Scene.
TOM SHEPHERD

ALTERED SKY

WITHOUT WONDERLAND *(SELF-RELEASED)*

KKKK

A DEBUT THAT SCREAMS "SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE!" FROM GLASWEGIAN ROCKERS

IN THE field of female-fronted pop-punk, the UK's lagging well behind our U.S. counterparts. Where's our Against The Current? Our WATIC? Our Paramore? Well, if Glaswegian quartet Altered Sky have anything to say about it, we'll not be wondering much longer. Built around the luxuriant vocals of charasmatic frontlady Ana Nowosielska, this infectious, sharply produced debut crackles with confidence and world-beating potential. Driving opener This War Is Mine overspills with fist-pumping power, Apple Tree glimmers with clever lyricism and bitter-sweet emotion, and thumpingly expansive closer White Witch ebbs and glows with horizon-broadening ambition. From not-so-humble beginnings like these, great things grow…

DOWNLOAD: This War Is Mine.
FOR FANS OF: Paramore, Tonight Alive.
SAM LAW

TOM AND TRAVIS SHOW (THE ENEMA STRIKES BACK!) (KKK) live album on cassette. There are no extras, but each tape comes in collectors' colours, which is ace. Elsewhere, it seems only fitting that **KURT COBAIN**'s **MONTAGE OF HECK: THE HOME RECORDINGS (KKKK)** is out on tape, too, since these rough demos were

recorded on them in Kurt's bedroom. You can almost pretend it's a special mixtape of new songs he's made and posted to you, which is pretty cool and in keeping with the spirit of the release. Finally, for metal maniacs, Swedish demons **WATAIN** have reissued their classic **CASUS LUCIFERI (KKKKK)**. It should probably come on a third-generation copy with a dead worm for true underground authenticity, but any chance to hear The Devil's Blood is alright by us. Tapes, then: still the reel thing.

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL

Clutch

PURE ROCK FURY

(ATLANTIC, 2001)

THE ALBUM THAT MADE THE WORLD STOP AND PAY ATTENTION TO THE MARYLAND RIFF-SHITTERS…

IN THEIR two-and-a-half decades of stoner-rock mastery, Clutch have become the very embodiment of groove. Their music is as pure as can be, there are no special effects here – just a blue-collar working man's band channelling demon blues heavy enough to wake the dead, with lyrics straight from one of the greatest, weirdest rock lyricists in modern rock, Neil Fallon. Fifth album Pure Rock Fury ushered in a new era in their career, stepping out of the underground and taking over stereos with dirty blues (Open Up The Border), insanely fast raps (Careful With That Mic) and pure rock fury (Pure Rock Fury). It took them long enough to break through, but 15 years later, they've stayed there…

WOULD IT BE FAIR TO SAY THAT – AT LEAST IN YOUR CASE – SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE?
NEIL FALLON (*VOCALS*): "I think having a hit song can be one of the worst things that can ever happen to a band! That might seem counter-intuitive, but when you build a fanbase up slowly over the years, via word of mouth and doing show after show just grinding it out… you get genuine fans of the band – not just that *one* smash song from the summer five years ago. Pure Rock Fury was a period of transition for us. For the better part of the '90s, we'd be lucky to get a dozen people at our gigs in Europe. Then, somewhere after the millennium, things began accelerating expeditiously for us."

SONGS LIKE RED HORSE RAINBOW AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS! ARE ALMOST FILMLIKE IN THEIR MISHMASH OF SCI-FI AND EARTHLY QUALITIES…
"I remember with Red Horse Rainbow, we were doing a rough draft of sorts and I was singing gibberish into the microphone. Both Tim [Sult, guitars] and Jean-Paul [Gaster, drums] asked me if the lyrics were, '*Do you believe in red horse rainbows?*' That's not what I was saying at all, but I thought, 'Well, that's just too good to let go!' I've always had a juvenile romance with Dungeons & Dragons, and now I had the opportunity to put those things into songs!"

YOU WERE HAVING A GIGGLE AT RAP-METAL ON CAREFUL WITH THAT MIC… BUT YOU'RE ALSO GENUINE HIP-HOP FANS. WHAT INFLUENCES DO YOU HEAR IN YOUR MUSIC?
"The very first immediate answer is Chuck D, via Public Enemy. They were a huge part of the soundtrack to my high school experience. And I think I was attracted to it because when we first started out, I didn't know much about pitch or melody. I was much more keen on rhythm, and he's amazing at that. As a band, we listen to a lot of Wu-Tang Clan. It's a big fundamental aspect of Clutch's sound. Jean-Paul plays his drums with a huge swing, and that's because of growing up around the Washington, D.C. suburbs. What I didn't want to happen was Clutch fans starting to think that we're trying to pitch our wagon to the rap-rock scene… that just wasn't the case, we were having a goof. And yet people ask for it to this day, so we must have made the right decision."

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR BEARD IS NOW SO FAMOUS IT HAS ITS OWN FACEBOOK AND TWITTER PAGES?
"Well, I didn't know about the Facebook one… that's very unnerving to hear. I think I remember when I joined Twitter a couple of years ago, shortly thereafter I got a little pop-up message that said: 'Neil Fallon's beard is now following you' – which was very existential."

Kerrang! Radio play it all at 10pm, November 26!

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA

K!LLOBBER

MUST HAV£S

ALL THE BEST GEAR FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF PLANET ROCK AND BEYOND!

Dear all bands about to release their first album. Take a look in the mirror, a nice hard look. Do you look as badass as Metallica do here, in this vintage pic from the Kill 'Em All sleeve? No? Then hold off release until you do.
£15 Metallica.com

Which BVB action figure do you want? The one in the leather jacket, the one in the leather jacket, or the one in the leather jacket? So hard to choose.
£28
shop.staramba.com

You can't spell Sabbath without 'bath'. So, have a doomy soak, then get into this. It's what Ozzy does. Probably.
£32.99 Emp-online.co.uk

Wahey! Dirty, filthy rock'n'ro… Oh, sorry, sparkly clean rock'n'roll that smells of lovely soap.
£5.04 etsy.com/uk/shop/CoolBathandBody

How do you fit all four of 5 Seconds Of Summer on a T-shirt? Um, pretty easily, actually. Look…
£9.99 Thisispulp.co.uk

The first rule of pop-punk club is: Pizza Is Life. The second rule is: Don't eat this patch. It's not a real pizza.
£3.30 Zupovitzdesignco.bigcartel.com

What's a steamed ham? Get out. Go home. Watch The Simpsons. Laugh. Then hang your ignorant head in shame.
£15.36 Redbubble.com

Funnily enough, you refer to payday as 'Adventure Time'. Fortunately, there's a Jake wallet for such an occasion.
£12.99 Thisispulp.co.uk

'It's alright, we're doin' fine, thunderduck, yeah, yeah, yeah!' Sadly, we can't make it duckwalk.
£7.99 Emp-online.co.uk

No, you're not having an acid flashback, Neck Deep really have gone far-out. Groovy, man.
£17.99 Grindstore.com

Is your handbag not New Grave enough? Get one designed by Ash Costello.
£59.99 Ironfist.co.uk

SOLEFLY

WE ALL NEED SOMETHING ON OUR FEET. MAKE THEM ROCK WITH THIS SHOE'S SHOE OF ROCK'S BEST FOOTWEAR.

'*Congraatuuuulations. You say you're the baaaag*'. Keep Matty Mullins in here for instant duets on the go.
£29.99 Grindstore.com

According to this, we've been saying TØP's name wrong. Piløts. We need to Swedish it up…
£13.50 Plastichead.com

Tired of the hassle that comes with painting Kiss on your legs? Have we got the time-saving leggings for you…
£25 Plastichead.com

These goth-tacular salt and pepper shakers are perfect for dinner parties with vampires. So long as, whatever you do, you don't put garlic salt in them. Can you *imagine* the awkwardness? You don't want that.
£6.99 Grindstore.com

It's okay, everyone, we checked: this Eddie door-knocker still works on houses that aren't 22 Acacia Avenue.
£65 Ironmaiden.com

That's a selfie, that is, from the time we stayed up for two weeks listening to ADTR the whole time.
£12.99 Grindstore.com

"What size, mate?" asks the helpful shoe salesman. "Six! Six! Six!" you reply, before he disappears to the back of the shop and returns clutching three shoes for you.
£131
Amazon.com

We tried to make a Chuck Taylor/Slayer pun for these Slaytanic Converse, but it's just not coming. We've let you down, we've let ourselves down and, worst of all, we've let Slayer down.
$99.99 (£65.49)
Theavevenice.com

We all know the bit of Till Lindemann's anatomy you like best: his huge German feet. Now you can dress your toes like the Ram-man with Rammstein boots. Wunderbar!
£69.50
Rammstein.de

These shoes have magic powers. Put them on your feet and you'll miraculously be able to play like Tony Iommi. Providing, of course, you are already Sabbath's moustachiod axeman.
£40
USC.co.uk

Of course these 30 Seconds To Mars trainers look like something from the future. *Of course* they do. And yet, also, like they're straight from the '80s. Well played, Jared, well played.
£62.15
Thirtysecondstomarsstore.com

Y'see, Five Finger Death Punch really missed a trick here. Where do you wear shoes? Feet. What do feet have? Toes. How many? Five. So, duh, Five Toe Death Kick, surely? Tsk.
£41.99
Emp-online.co.uk

DON'T MISS

BEARTOOTH

AS IF PULLING OFF AN INTENSE LIVE SHOW EVERY NIGHT AIN'T HARD ENOUGH, CALEB SHOMO'S WORKING ON NEW MUSIC AND SOME BIG GOALS!

THIS IS YOUR BIGGEST UK HEADLINE RUN YET – TELL US WHAT THREE THINGS MAKE YOU MOST EXCITED TO BE RETURNING TO PLAY IN THE UK!

CALEB SHOMO (*VOCALS*): "Number one is the people that come to the shows. There's nothing like our UK fanbase. I love 'em all! Second is the venues – there's always a good place and great sound. Third is just that the UK feels like a second home to me. I genuinely do have to pinch myself constantly. I can't believe how well people are receiving the record [Disgusting]. Hopefully it keeps up!"

HOW DOES YOUR CURRENT LIVE SHOW COMPARE TO WHEN YOU FIRST GOT ONSTAGE AS BEARTOOTH?

"Our first-ever show was at a 70-capacity venue in Columbus, Ohio, that somehow 120 people crammed into. It was out of control and perfect. Now it's completely different. Our shows are very much based around people knowing when to sing, so it makes it a lot more fun that people can get involved. More than anything, we want people to be having as much fun as us when we play."

WHAT'S THE WEIRDEST THING YOU'VE SEEN IN THE CROWD AT ONE OF YOUR SHOWS?

"Somebody was feeling up my feet when we played once… It was a guy in the front that honestly had a super-creepy look on his face. For some reason I didn't have shoes on, and whenever I got onto the riser, the dude would just stroke my feet. I literally had to get down and tell him to stop. I stayed off the front of the stage from then on! Weird times."

> ***"SOMEBODY WAS FEELING UP MY FEET WHEN WE PLAYED!"***
> **CALEB SHOMO**

SPEAKING OF WEIRD, WHAT WAS TOURING WITH SLIPKNOT LIKE?

"We saw the guys around here and there – they were extremely nice people. I probably hung out with Jay [Weinberg, drums] and Jim [Root, guitar] the most out of anyone. The hangs on that tour were amazing, and the shows were out of control. The highlight for me was getting to watch Slipknot every night… And playing, obviously."

IF YOU WERE GIVEN A SLIPKNOT-STYLE BUDGET FOR YOUR LIVE SHOW, WHAT WOULD YOU SPEND IT ON?

"Pyro. Pyro. More pyro. All the fire possible."

PYRO-SHOWS ASIDE, WHAT ELSE IS LEFT TO DO ON THE BEARTOOTH BUCKET LIST?

"My dream is to play on a Pantera reunion tour if it ever happens. I would do just about anything to be on a Pantera reunion tour. If not, I just wanna see Slayer live at festivals that we play more!"

FINALLY, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT STAGE YOU'RE AT WITH MAKING YOUR NEXT ALBUM?

"I'm about four full songs deep, and I have nine in total that I've been working on. It's gonna be a Beartooth record; there's no crazy change in sound – just bigger hooks and heavier shit! Am I worried we won't be able to top Disgusting? Honestly, now that I've been writing, I'm not worried at all. I think these songs are *way* better than Disgusting. I just wanna get out and play it!"

DATES: London Camden Electric Ballroom November 24, Bristol Thekla 25, Manchester Academy III 26, Glasgow SWG3 27, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 28. Support: '68, Blood Youth.

PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

YOUR WEEK!

KERRANG! DAY NOVEMBER 25

ABERDEEN JAWS (Tunnels)
BRIGHTON Lonely The Brave, Black Peaks (Haunt)
BRISTOL Stray From The Path (Exchange)
BRISTOL Clutch (O2 Academy Bristol)
BRISTOL Beartooth, '68, Blood Youth (Thekla)
EDINBURGH Bring Me The Horizon, Neck Deep, PVRIS (Corn Exchange)
GLASGOW Zebrahead, Patent Pending, Templeton Pek (Garage)
GLASGOW Slayer, Anthrax, Kvelertak (O2 Academy Glasgow)
LONDON Modestep (Electric, Brixton)
MANCHESTER Vennart, Knifeworld, Cleft (Deaf Institute)
NOTTINGHAM Uncle Acid & The Deadbeats, Spiders (Rescue Rooms)
NOTTINGHAM Apocalyptica, Vamps (Rock City)
SHEFFIELD Deez Nuts, Nasty, Expire, Astroid Boys (Corporation)
TUNBRIDGE WELLS Fozzy, Sumo Cyco (Forum)
WOLVERHAMPTON Slaves (Wulfrun Hall)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26

BIRMINGHAM Stray From The Path (Asylum)
BIRMINGHAM Modestep (O2 Academy2 Birmingham)
BRISTOL Nothing But Thieves (Thekla)
CARDIFF Raging Speedhorn (Globe)
DONCASTER Bring Me The Horizon, Neck Deep, PVRIS (Dome)
EDINBURGH JAWS (Electric Circus)
GLASGOW Vennart, Knifeworld, Cleft (King Tut's)
GLASGOW Apocalyptica, Vamps (O2 ABC Glasgow)
LIVERPOOL Kvelertak (O2 Academy2 Liverpool)
LONDON Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls (Alexandra Palace)
LONDON Fozzy, Sumo Cyco (O2 Academy Islington)
LONDON Uncle Acid & The Deadbeats, Spiders (Scala, King's Cross)
LONDON Deez Nuts, Nasty, Expire, Astroid Boys (Underworld, Camden)
MANCHESTER Beartooth, '68, Blood Youth (Academy 3)
MANCHESTER Motionless In White, Chelsea Grin, New Years Day (Club Academy)
NEWCASTLE The Prodigy, Public Enemy (Metro Radio Arena)
WOLVERHAMPTON Judas Priest, Michael Schenker's Temple Of Rock (Civic Hall)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27

CARDIFF Bring Me The Horizon, Neck Deep, PVRIS (Motorpoint Arena)
BELFAST Nothing But Thieves (Sub Bar)
BIRMINGHAM Slayer, Anthrax, Kvelertak (O2 Academy Birmingham)
BIRMINGHAM Evil Blizzard (Wagon & Horses)
BRIGHTON Modestep (Concorde 2)
GLASGOW Beartooth, '68, Blood Youth (SWG3)
LEEDS Stray From The Path (Key Club)
LEEDS Allusondrugs (Library)
LEEDS Motionless In White, Chelsea Grin, New Years Day (University Union)
LONDON Slaves (O2 Forum Kentish Town)
LONDON Autumn Ruin (Garage, Highbury)
LONDON Apocalyptica, Vamps (O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire)
LONDON Raging Speedhorn, Gurt, Ten Foot Wizard, Telepathy (Underworld, Camden)
MANCHESTER Zebrahead, Patent Pending, Templeton Pek (Academy 3)
MANCHESTER Fozzy, Sumo Cyco (Sound Control)
MANCHESTER The Prodigy, Public Enemy (Central)
NEWCASTLE JAWS (Think Tank?)
WAKEFIELD Vennart, Knifeworld, Cleft (Hop)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28

BIRMINGHAM Beartooth, '68, Blood Youth (O2 Academy2 Birmingham)
CHESTER Fozzy, Sumo Cyco (Live Rooms)
DUBLIN Nothing But Thieves (Academy2)
GLASGOW Motionless In White, Chelsea Grin, New Years Day (Garage)
LEEDS Slayer, Anthrax, Kvelertak (O2 Academy Leeds)
LONDON Bring Me The Horizon, Neck Deep, PVRIS (Alexandra Palace)
LONDON Evil Blizzard (Barfly, Camden)
LONDON Zebrahead, Patent Pending, Templeton Pek (Brooklyn Bowl)
LONDON Bury Tomorrow, HECK (Dr Martens @ Black Heart, Camden)
LONDON Five Finger Death Punch, Papa Roach, Devil You Know, As Lions (SSE Arena, Wembley)
MANCHESTER Apocalyptica, Vamps (Academy 2)
MANCHESTER JAWS (Deaf Institute)
MANCHESTER Judas Priest, Michael Schenker's Temple Of Rock (O2 Apollo Manchester)
NEWCASTLE Stray From The Path (Think Tank?)
SHEFFIELD The Prodigy, Public Enemy (Motorpoint Arena)
WOLVERHAMPTON Raging Speedhorn (Slade Rooms)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29

BIRMINGHAM Bring Me The Horizon, Neck Deep (matinee show @ O2 Academy Birmingham)
BIRMINGHAM Bring Me The Horizon, Neck Deep (O2 Academy Birmingham)
BRISTOL Apocalyptica, Vamps (O2 Academy Bristol)
GLASGOW Stray From The Path (G2)
LIVERPOOL Nothing But Thieves (Arts Club)
LONDON Kvelertak (Oslo)
NOTTINGHAM Motionless In White, Chelsea Grin, New Years Day (Rescue Rooms)
OXFORD Modestep (O2 Academy Oxford)
OXFORD Zebrahead, Patent Pending, Templeton Pek (O2 Academy2 Oxford)
SHEFFIELD Raging Speedhorn (Corporation)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30

BRISTOL Bring Me The Horizon, Neck Deep (O2 Academy Bristol)
BRISTOL Modestep (Thekla)
DUBLIN The Prodigy, Public Enemy (3Arena)
LIVERPOOL JAWS (O2 Academy Liverpool)
LONDON Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes (Dingwalls, Camden Lock)
LONDON Slayer, Anthrax, Kvelertak (O2 Academy Brixton)
MANCHESTER Stray From The Path (Sound Control)
MANCHESTER Raging Speedhorn (Star & Garter)
PORTSMOUTH Judas Priest, Michael Schenker's Temple Of Rock (Guildhall)
PORTSMOUTH Zebrahead, Patent Pending, Templeton Pek (Wedgewood Rooms)

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1

BELFAST The Prodigy, Public Enemy (Odyssey)
BIRMINGHAM Motionless In White, Chelsea Grin, New Years Day (Asylum)
BIRMINGHAM Fozzy, Sumo Cyco (Rainbow)
BIRMINGHAM Autumn Ruin (Temple)
BRISTOL Raging Speedhorn (Exchange)
BRISTOL Zebrahead, Patent Pending, Templeton Pek (Marble Factory)
CAMBRIDGE The Darkness (Corn Exchange)
CAMBRIDGE JAWS (Junction 2)
CARDIFF The Story So Far, Turnstile, Drug Church (Y Plas)
LONDON Judas Priest, Michael Schenker's Temple Of Rock (O2 Academy, Brixton)
NOTTINGHAM Stray From The Path (Bodega)

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: The One Hundred
Ah, here's a band who don't ask for much but certainly know what they want. *IN YOUR FACE, LETTUCE WITH OUTER LEAVES!*

THE ONE HUNDRED

6 x large towels (if showers are provided, if not, no worries…)
4 x small towels for stage use
1 x crate of still water (some for stage, some for the dressing room)
Fruit for the dressing room (or salad – lettuce with no outer leaves)
Some general snacks – crisps and chocolate (lots of red Peanut M&M's)
2 or 3 cartons of fruit juice (apple, orange or pineapple)
A selection (10/15) of cans of named brand soft drinks
1 x bottle of Fireball Cinnamon Whisky
1 x bottle of nice red wine (a Malbec would be nice!)
As much lager as you can generously find…

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY

TRIPLESHOT! YOU ME AT SIX

KERRANG! TV – NOVEMBER 25, *11.30AM*

Want to watch members of You Me At Six down three shots in a row? Well, we have just the show for yo… Oh wait, this is a triple-shot of their videos. It'll still be a laugh, don't you worry!

MUSE LIVE AT ROME OLYMPIC STADIUM

SKY ARTS 1 – NOVEMBER 28, *9:00PM*

Let's take a wild guess: you bought Muse tickets for next April and, ever since, you've just been sat at the end of your bed staring at your calendar waiting for the show to come around? Yep, thought so. Well, stare at your TV instead and see Rome getting their brains proper Bellamy'd!

MOTÖRHEAD – CLASSIC ALBUMS: ACE OF SPADES – BBC SESSION '05

YOUTUBE

In 2005, the classic line-up of Motörhead got together to blast through some tunes from their Ace Of Spades album. Pay your respect to Phil Taylor (RIP) by watching him pound the crap out of the skins on (We Are) The Road Crew.

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: IRON MAIDEN, LIVERPOOL, EMPIRE THEATRE, 1981

THIS PARTICULAR METAL LEGEND RECALLS SEEING SOME OTHER METAL LEGENDS SHORTLY BEFORE THEY BECAME LEGENDS!

BILL STEER, CARCASS

"My first gig? Iron Maiden on The Killer World Tour! It's hazy, but it was with Paul Di'Anno, so I guess I'm one of the lucky ones that saw that line-up. That was pretty special, because the way Iron Maiden presented themselves was a little bit more street back then. The gig was at Liverpool Empire Theatre – it sounds crazy now, but the tickets were £2.50! I'm guessing I was 12 – we went with supervision, 'cause we were just kids. I went with my mum, dad, my brother and another friend. Mum and dad just took us in there, and then disappeared to the bar and left us!

"I can't remember if it was that gig or maybe an Ozzy one later, but some older fella next to me gave me my first beer, which was Newcastle Brown [Ale]. The most memorable thing about the gig to me was the support band, Trust, from France, 'cause they were the first band I saw perform on a stage, and I'll never forget the power of it. It was absolutely spell-binding! I'd never seen anything like it.

"I remember seeing Maiden again approximately a year or so later with Bruce Dickinson on The Number Of The Beast Tour, which was also superb but in a different way. I think all of a sudden with Bruce, you realised this band was going to conquer the world. It was obvious! With Di'Anno, it was more like, 'This is our band, our little pet band and not everybody knows about it.' It changed very quickly within the space of a year."

GENERAL ADMISSION

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buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

BOOKING NOW

SPOTLIGHT ON...

BELFAST

BEHOLD: THE HOME OF THE TITANIC AND AN EQUALLY HULKING MUSIC SCENE

PHILLY BYRNE (VOCALS), ***GAMA BOMB***

WHAT DID THE LOCAL BELFAST SCENE MEAN TO YOU WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

"I grew up in **Newry,** about 40 miles away from Belfast, and it was the place where 'real' bands would come and play – my first proper gig experiences were in Belfast. The messiest was back in 2002. Joe [McGuigan, bassist] and I went to see **Therapy?** at the **Mandela Hall** – a legendary venue at **Queen's University**. I drank a box of wine like an idiot. I got so drunk, I burst out crying and had to go home. Then when the other lads from the band got back, they beat me with the end of the hoover for being a big wuss. I deserved that, to be fair."

AND WHAT ABOUT MEMORIES OF PLAYING BELFAST YOURSELF?

"Our first-ever gig as **Gama Bomb** was in Belfast – it was in the **Warzone Collective**, a legendary DIY punk venue. I remember the grotty old bogs were full of skinheads, just hanging out and smoking – it was very cool and intimidating to us nice 19-year-olds from a small town."

SO, WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT THE LOCAL SCENE NOW?

"Because it's small, I think Belfast is the kind of city that a band can gain notoriety in very quickly – bands going from back rooms to proper festivals quite quickly is a normal thing. It's a small scene, or it was during my time there, so you can rock into a pub or club and already know half the people there. That can be very cool."

ARE THERE ANY PLACES NEW BANDS SHOULD BE FREQUENTING?

"The **Oh Yeah Centre** is really great – it's right in the middle of the **Cathedral Quarter**, which is Belfast's nightlife and arts hub. They run courses, have rehearsal rooms, all that. Also, the **Warzone Collective**, which shut down soon after our maiden gig there, has been resurrected in the city centre, and is friendly to young punk, crust and metal bands. It's also volunteer-run, so young bands can always help out to earn their kudos."

ARE THERE ANY KEY FIGURES IN THE COMMUNITY WHO CAN HELP MAKE OR BREAK BANDS?

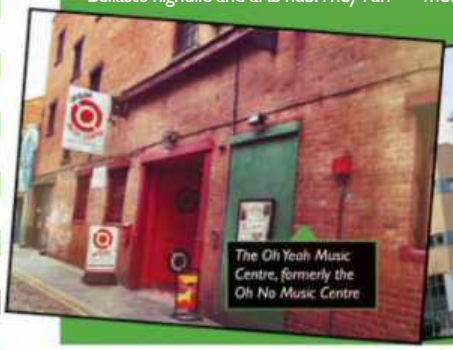
"Tons of people! **Darren Smyth** at **Strange Victory** is the best alternative promoter around and often gives out support slots with top touring turns to suitable local acts. **Sunglasses After Dark** – run by a guy called **Ryan Fitzsimmons** – are very cool scene promoters. They do a lot of punk, garage, rockabilly and fetish stuff. For new bands, **Phil McCarroll** puts on rock and metal bills at the legendary **Pavilion bar**."

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL RADIO STATIONS OR FANZINES THAT HELP OUT NEW BANDS?

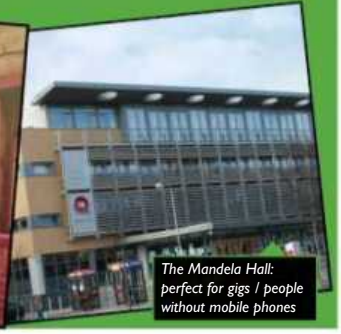
"**Christopher Owens** from **Dragon Records** loves a bit of rock – he has a cool online radio show called **The Death And Resurrection Show**. **The Thin Air** is quite into indie, but they're a well-respected source of serious NI journalism. **BBC Northern Ireland** also has its flagship rock and alternative show **Across The Line**!"

FINALLY, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO BANDS TRYING TO MAKE IT IN THIS TOWN?

"I'd say, don't be afraid to look beyond Belfast! We gigged hard in that town, but we were always focused on getting the ferry to England, Scotland, wherever, most weekends. It's sometimes easy to become a big deal in one town – but you can get even more from venturing further afield."



The Oh Yeah Music Centre, formerly the Oh No Music Centre



The Mandela Hall: perfect for gigs / people without mobile phones

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
Sheffield Arena April 5, 2016, London O2 Arena 7 – 8, Leeds First Direct Arena 11, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 12, Birmingham Genting Arena 14, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 18, Glasgow SSE Hydro 19 – 20, Manchester Arena 22 – 23, Belfast SSE Arena 25, Dublin 3Arena 26 – 27.

AIDEN
Manchester Sound Control January 16, 2016, Newcastle Think Tank? 17, Glasgow Cathouse 18, Leeds Key Club 20, Birmingham Rainbow 21, Sheffield Corporation 23, Bristol Tunnels 24, Plymouth Hub 25, Southampton Joiners 27, London Camden Underworld 29. Support: Ashestoangels, Never Found.

ALICE COOPER
Stone Free Festival @ London O2 Arena June 18 19, 2016.

ALIEN ANT FARM
Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms January 5, 2016, Birmingham Rainbow Warehouse 6, Glasgow Garage 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 8, Liverpool Arts Club 9, Newcastle Riverside 10, York Duchess 12, Norwich Waterfront 13, London KOKO 14, Manchester Club Academy 15, Sheffield Corporation 16, Cambridge Junction 17, Exeter Lemon Grove 19, Bournemouth Old Firestation 20, Brighton Concorde II 21. Support: InMe, The Dirty Youth.

ALL TIME LOW
Cardiff Arena February 10, 2016, London O2 Arena 11, Manchester Arena 12, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 13, Glasgow SSE Hydro 15, Dublin 3Arena 16. Support: Good Charlotte.

AMERICAN IDIOT THE MUSICAL
Leicester Curve Theatre March 19 – 26, 2016, Bromley Churchill Theatre March 30 – April 2, Manchester Palace Theatre 4 – 9, Cardiff New Theatre April 19 23, Portsmouth Kings Theatre April 26 – 30, Oxford New Theatre May 3 – 7, Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre May 10 – 14, Sunderland Empire May 24 28, Glasgow King's Theatre May 31 – June 4.

BABYMETAL
London SSE Arena Wembley April 2, 2016.

BASEMENT
Bristol Marble Factory February 7, 2016, Glasgow King Tut's 8, Leeds Stylus 9, Manchester Academy II 10, Norwich Waterfront 11, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 12. Support: Tigers Jaw.

BEARTOOTH
Bristol Thekla November 25, Manchester Academy III 26, Glasgow SWG3 27, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 28.

BIFFY CLYRO
Hogmany @ Edinburgh West Princes Street Gardens December 31.

BLACK STONE CHERRY
Cardiff Motorpoint Arena January 28, 2016, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 29, Liverpool Echo Arena 30, Glasgow SSE Hydro February 1, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 2, London SSE Arena Wembley 4, Leeds First Direct Arena 5, Manchester Arena 6. Support: Shinedown, Halestorm, Highly Suspect.

BLOODSTOCK
Mastodon, Twisted Sister, Venom, Behemoth, DragonForce, Paradise Lost, Rotting Christ. Derbyshire Catton Park August 11 – 14, 2016.

BRIAN FALLON & THE CROWES
O2 Ritz Manchester April 5, 2016, O2 ABC Glasgow 6, O2 Institute Birmingham 7, London Camden KOKO 8 , Nottingham Rock City 9, O2 Academy Bristol 10.

BRING ME THE HORIZON
Edinburgh Corn Exchange November 25, Doncaster Dome 26, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 27, London Alexandra Palace 28, O2 Academy Birmingham 29 (matinee), O2 Academy Birmingham 29 (evening), O2 Academy Bristol 30. Support: Neck Deep (November 29 – 30 only).

THE BRONX
Manchester Ruby Lounge December 11, London Brooklyn Bowl 13. Support: Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Pounded By The Surf.

CANCER BATS
Southend Chinnery's January 11, 2016, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 12, Brighton Concorde II 13, Norwich Waterfront 14, Exeter Phoenix 15, Plymouth Hub 16, Bristol Marble Factory 17, Bridgend Hobos 18, Reading Sub89 19, Stoke Sugarmill 20, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 21, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 22, Manchester Academy III 23, Leeds Key Club 24, Glasgow Garage 25, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 26, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 27, London Tufnell Park Dome 28.

CHRIS CORNELL
Belfast Ulster Hall April 24, 2016, Dublin Olympia Theatre 25, Manchester Bridgewater 27, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall 29, Bristol Colston Hall 30, Birmingham Symphony Hall May 2, London Royal Albert Hall 3.

CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK!
London Camden Underworld December 2, Birmingham O2 Institute III 3, Nottingham Bodega 4, Leeds Key Club 5, Newcastle Think Tank? 6, Glasgow Cathouse 7, Manchester Sound Control 8, Cardiff Globe 9. Support: Trash Boat, Boston Manor.

CITY AND COLOUR
Brighton Dome February 18, 2016, Cardiff Great Hall 19, Manchester Albert Hall 20, Dublin The Helix 22, Belfast Mandela Hall 23, O2 Academy Glasgow 24, London Troxy 26 – 27.

COHEED AND CAMBRIA
Cardiff Uni Great Hall January 31, Manchester O2 Ritz February 1, 2016, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 2. Support: Glassjaw, Crooks.

CRADLE OF FILTH
Chester Live Rooms March 12, 2016, Dublin Academy 13, Belfast Limelight 14.

THE DARKNESS
Cambridge Corn Exchange December 1, Nottingham Rock City 2, O2 Academy Newcastle 4, O2 Academy Glasgow 5, Park Dream Holiday Park Trecco Bay 6, O2 Academy Leeds 9, Manchester Academy 10, O2 Academy Birmingham 11, O2 Academy Bristol 13, O2 Guildhall Southampton 14, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 15, O2 Academy Bournemouth 17, O2 Academy Oxford 19, London Camden Roundhouse 20.

DEAFHEAVEN
Bristol Fleece March 13, 2016, London Heaven 14.

DEF LEPPARD / WHITESNAKE
Dublin 3Arena December 6, Belfast Odyssey 7, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 9, Glasgow SSE Hydro 10, Birmingham Genting Arena 12, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 13, Manchester Arena 15, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 16, London SSE Arena Wembley 18, Sheffield Motorpoint Arena 19. Support: Black Star Riders.

DESERTFEST
Line-up: Electric Wizard, Elder, Godflesh, Crowbar, Conan, Raging Speedhorn, Witchsorrow. London various venues April 29 – May 1, 2016.

DON BROCO
Cardiff Tramshead December 3, Sheffield Plug 4, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 6, O2 Academy Leeds 7, Exeter Lemon Grove 8, Nottingham Rock City 9, Manchester Ritz 11, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 12, London O2 Academy Brixton 13. Support: Arcane Roots, Symmetry.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL
Line-up: Rammstein, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Korn, Megadeth, Disturbed, Motörhead, Nightwish, Deftones. Donington Park June 10 – 12, 2016.

DREAM THEATER
London Palladium February 18, 2016.

ENTER SHIKARI
Belfast Limelight December 17, Dublin Academy 18. O2 Academy Glasgow February 18, 2016, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 19, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 20, Bournemouth BIC 22, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 23, Manchester Victoria Warehouse 25, London Alexandra Palace 27. Support: The Wonder Years.

ESCAPE THE FATE
Manchester Club Academy January 28, 2016, Glasgow Cathouse 29, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 30, London Camden Electric Ballroom February 16.

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES
London Camden Dingwalls November 30.

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND
Cardiff Y Plas April 5 – 6, 2016, Manchester Ritz 8 – 9, Glasgow O2 ABC 10 – 11, Birmingham O2 Institute 13 – 14, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 15 – 16. Support: Shai Hulud.

GHOST
Leeds Beckett University December 12, Nottingham Rock City 14, Birmingham O2 Institute 15, O2

CROSSFAITH

Southend Chinnery's March 16, 2016, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 17, Brighton Haunt 18, CardiffY Plas 19, Plymouth Hub 20, Leeds Key Club 22, Reading Sub 89 23, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 24, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 25, Manchester Academy II 26, Glasgow King Tut's 28, Sheffield Corporation 29, Norwich Waterfront 30, London Brixton Electric 31.

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

JUST ANNOUNCED

BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL
Latest additions: Anthrax, Gojira, Satyricon.

THE DEFILED
Milton Keynes Crauford Arms January 26, 2016, Oxford Bullingdon 27, Norwich Waterfront Studio 28, York Duchess 29, Sheffield Corporation 30, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 31, Newcastle Think Tank? February 2, Chester Live Rooms 3, Swansea The Scene 4. Support: Forever Never, Vampires Everywhere.

DEFTONES
Rescheduled date: London SSE Arena Wembley June 3, 2016.

ENTER SHIKARI
Support added: The King Blues.
Christmas shows announced: Belfast Limelight December 17, Dublin Academy 18. Support: Fearless Vampire Killers.

IMPERICON FESTIVAL
Line-up: Hatebreed, Northlane, Emmure, blessthefall, Chelsea Grin, Hundreth. Manchester Academy May 2, 2016, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 3.

ISSUES
CardiffY Plas May 24, 2016, London Camden KOKO 25, O2 Manchester Ritz 26, Glasgow Garage 27, Southampton Engine Rooms.

LOCRIAN
London Camden Black Heart January 15, 2016.

MILLENCOLIN
London Camden Electric Ballroom February 12, 2016, O2 Ritz Manchester13, Bristol Bierkeller 14.

SAOSIN
London O2 Academy Islington April 30, 2016.

SIKTH
Support added: Destrage.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL
Line-up: Panic! At The Disco, Of Mice & Men, New Found Glory, Four Year Strong, Every Time I Die, Issues, Memphis May Fire, Real Friends. Slam Dunk North – Leeds City Centre May 28, 2016, Slam Dunk Midlands – Birmingham NEC 29, Slam Dunk South – Hatfield University Of Hertfordshire 30.

SLIPKNOT
Support added: Suicidal Tendencies.

THERION
London O2 Academy Islington January 13, 2016, Glasgow Classic Grand 14, Dublin Academy 15, Manchester Academy 16. Support: Luciferian Light Orchestra, Ego Fall, Imperial Age.

Academy Newcastle 16, O2 ABC Glasgow 18, Manchester Ritz 19, O2 Academy Bristol 20, London Camden KOKO 21. Support: Dead Soul.

THE GHOST INSIDE
Manchester Club Academy February 11, 2016, O2 Academy Newcastle 12, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 13, O2 Academy2 Oxford 14, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 16, Norwich Waterfront 17, Leeds Stylus 18, Glasgow Garage 19, Nottingham Rock City 20, Plymouth Hub 22, Bristol Marble Factory 23, Birmingham Library @ O2 Institute 24, Brighton Concorde II 25, London Camden KOKO 26.

HEAVEN'S BASEMENT FEATURING DANNY WORSNOP ON GUEST VOCALS
Southampton Engine Rooms December 3, Bristol Marble Factory 4, Trecco Bay Planet Rockstock 5.

HEY! HELLO!
York Fibbers December 10, Stockton Georgian Theatre 11, Sheffield Corporation 12, Edinburgh Electric Circus 13, Stoke Sugarmill 14, London O2 Kentish Town Forum 17.

HIM
Nottingham Rock City December 27.

HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD
O2 Academy Bristol April 18, 2016, London O2 Academy Brixton 20, O2 Academy Birmingham 21, Manchester Academy 22, O2 Academy Glasgow 23. Support: Attila.

IN THIS MOMENT
London O2 Forum Kentish Town January 21, 2016, Birmingham O2 Institute 22, Glasgow Barrowland 23, Manchester Ritz 24. Support: The Defiled.

JUDAS PRIEST
Wolverhampton Civic Hall November 26, Manchester Apollo 28, Portsmouth Guildhall 30, London O2 Academy Brixton December 1.

KERRANG! TOUR 2016
Line-up: Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM, Biters. Dublin Academy February 10, 2016, Cardiff Great Hall 11, Birmingham O2 Institute 12, Glasgow O2 ABC 13, Newcastle University 15, Norwich UEA 16, Manchester Albert Hall 18, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 19.

KVELERTAK
O2 Academy2 Liverpool November 26, London Oslo 29.

LIFE OF AGONY
London Camden Electric Ballroom March 17, 2016, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 18, Manchester Club Academy 19.

MACHINE HEAD
Norwich Open March 2, 2016, Nottingham Rock City 3, Belfast Limelight 5, Dublin Olympia 6, Manchester Academy 8, Cardiff Great Hall 10, London Eventim Apollo 11, O2 Academy Glasgow 12.

MANIC STREET PREACHERS
Swansea Liberty Stadium May 28, 2016.

MARIACHI EL BRONX
Manchester Ruby Lounge December 10, London Brooklyn Bowl 12.

MAYBESHEWILL
London Camden KOKO April 15, 2016.

MAYDAY PARADE
Exeter Lemon Grove January 26, 2016, O2 Academy Bristol 27, Norwich UEA 28, Birmingham O2 Institute 29, Manchester Ritz 30, O2 Academy Newcastle 31, Dublin Academy February 2, O2 ABC Glasgow 3, Nottingham Rock City 4, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 5, Leeds University 6, Portsmouth Pyramids 7. Support: The Maine, Have Mercy, Beautiful Bodies.

MEMPHIS MAY FIRE
London Camden Electric Ballroom May 31, 2016.

MONSTER MAGNET
London O2 Kentish Town Forum March 19, 2016.

MOTIONLESS IN WHITE
Manchester Club Academy November 26, Leeds University Union 27, Glasgow Garage 28, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 29, Birmingham Asylum December 1, Bristol Fleece 2, Southampton 1865 3, London Camden Underworld 4 and 6. Support: Chelsea Grin, New Years Day.

MOTÖRHEAD
Newcastle City Hall January 23, 2016, Glasgow Clyde Auditorium 24, O2 Apollo Manchester 26, Swindon Oasis 27, London Eventim Apollo 29 – 30. Support: Saxon, Girlschool.

MUSE
Birmingham Barclaycard Arena April 2, 2016, London O2 Arena 3, Dublin 3Arena 5, Belfast SSE Arena 6, Manchester Arena 8 – 9, London O2 Arena 11 – 15, Glasgow SSE Hydro 17 – 18.

NECK DEEP
O2 Guildhall Southampton April 16, 2016, Newcastle University Student Union 18, Leeds Beckett University 19, O2 Academy Liverpool 20. Support: Creeper, WSTR.

NECK DEEP / STATE CHAMPS
Birmingham O2 Institute February 1, 2016, O2 Academy Glasgow 2, Manchester Academy 4, Cardiff Great Hall 5, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 6. Support: Creeper, Light Years.

NOTHING MORE
Birmingham Temple December 5, Glasgow King Tut's 6, Manchester Academy III 7, London Boston Music Room 8.

THE ONE HUNDRED
London Camden Barfly December 17.

PANIC! AT THE DISCO
London O2 Academy Brixton January 12, 2016.

PAPA ROACH / FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH
London SSE Arena Wembley November 28. Support: Devil You Know, As Lions.

PARKWAY DRIVE
London O2 Academy Brixton February 12, 2016, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, O2 Academy Glasgow 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 15. Support: Bury Tomorrow, Thy Art Is Murder.

THE PRODIGY
Newcastle Upon Tyne Metro Radio Arena November 26, Manchester Central 27, Sheffield Motorpoint Arena 28, Dublin 3Arena 30, Belfast Odyssey Arena December 1, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 3, London SSE Arena Wembley 4 – 5. Support: Public Enemy.

PVRIS
Brighton Concorde April 1, 2016, Norwich UEA 2, Newcastle Riverside 3, Glasgow Garage 4, Manchester Academy 6, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 7, Cardiff Great Hall 8, O2 Institute Birmingham 9.

REFUSED
London Camden Electric Ballroom December 2. Support: Failure.

SKUNK ANANSIE
Manchester Albert Hall February 4, 2016, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 5.

SLAVES
London O2 Academy Brixton December 17, Tunbridge Wells Assembly Rooms 18.

SLAYER
O2 Academy Glasgow November 25, O2 Academy Birmingham 27, O2 Academy Leeds 28, London O2 Academy Brixton 30. Support: Anthrax, Kvelertak.

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS
O2 Academy Bristol February 29, 2016, Nottingham Rock City March 1, O2 Academy Glasgow 2, O2 Apollo Manchester 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 5, London Camden Roundhouse 6. Support: This Wild Life, Beach Weather.

SLIPKNOT
Cardiff Arena February 8, 2016, London Alexandra Palace 9 – 10, Birmingham Genting Arena 12, Leeds First Direct Arena 13.

THE STORY SO FAR
CardiffY Plas December 1, Southampton 1865 2, Exeter Lemon Grove 3, London Camden KOKO 4, Norwich Epic 5, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 7, Birmingham Asylum 8, Manchester Academy II 9, Glasgow Garage 10, Newcastle Riverside 11, Leeds Stylus 12.

THEORY OF A DEADMAN
Newcastle University February 27, 2016, O2 ABC Glasgow 28, Leeds Beckett SU 29, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire March 2, CardiffY Plas Students Union 3, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 4, Manchester Ritz 5, Norwich Waterfront 6.

THERAPY?
London Camden Electric Ballroom December 19. Support: Black Spiders.

TONIGHT ALIVE
London O2 Forum Kentish Town February 18, 2016, O2 Ritz Manchester 19, Newcastle University 20, O2 ABC Glasgow 21, Portsmouth Pyramids Centre 23, O2 Academy Bristol 24, O2 Institute Birmingham 26. Support: Our Last Night, Milk Teeth.

TREMONTI
Birmingham O2 Institute December 11, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 12, Manchester Ritz 13, O2 Academy Bristol 15, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 16.

TWENTY ONE PILOTS
O2 Academy Leeds February 18, 2016, O2 Academy Newcastle 19, Glasgow Barrowland 20, Manchester Academy 21, O2 Academy Birmingham 23, London O2 Academy Brixton 24 – 25, Nottingham Rock City 27, O2 Academy Bristol 28, Portsmouth Guildhall 29.

THE USED
O2 Academy Leeds February 20, 2016 (performing their self-titled album), O2 Academy Leeds 21 (performing In Love & Death), London O2 Kentish Town Forum 22 (performing their self-titled album), London O2 Kentish Town Forum 24 (performing In Love & Death).

WOLF ALICE
Belfast Mandela Hall March 4, 2016, Dublin Olympia 5, Stoke-On-Trent Keele Uni Students Union 7, Manchester Academy 10, Norwich UEA 11, O2 Academy Oxford 13, Portsmouth Pyramids 14, Glasgow Barrowland 16, York Barbican 17, O2 Academy Leeds 19, Folkestone Cliff Halls 21, Brighton Dome 22, Nottingham Rock City 23, Cardiff Great Hall 24, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 26 27.

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ON SALE DECEMBER 2

GUESS WHO'S BACK?

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★HUGE TWENTY ONE PILOTS POSTER!★
★MASSIVE 2016 WALL PLANNER!★

EDITORIAL

IF YOU COULD BE AN ENTREPENEUR IN ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

EDITOR: James McMahon *(I'd have my own franchise of dinosaur petting zoos)*
DEPUTY EDITOR: George Garner *(A great white shark conservation charity focused on stopping reactionary culls and anti-shark nets on beaches)*
ART EDITOR: Steve Beech *(Sleep)*
PRODUCTION EDITOR: Ryan Cooper *(Jack Daniel's drinking)*
FEATURES EDITOR: Sam Coare *(Property)*
PICTURE EDITOR: Scarlet Borg *(Ice cream)*
ASSOCIATE EDITOR (REVIEWS): Nick Ruskell *(Moaning)*
NEW MUSIC EDITOR: Jennyfer J. Walker *(Justin Bieber)*
DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Matt Dykzeul *(Film)*
SUB EDITOR/EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Emily Carter *(Falafel)*
DESIGNER: Sophie Bland *(Stella Artois)*
CONTRIBUTING ED: Katie Parsons *(Rainbow moon boots)*

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THANKS TO: James Hingle, Amit Sharma, Joe Roberts.

INTERN OF THE WEEK: Louise Hill
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THE ULTIMATE

ROCKSTAR TEST

ASH COSTELLO
NEW YEARS DAY

WE KNOW THE QUEEN OF NEW GRAVE LIVES ON THE DARK SIDE… BUT DOES SHE LIVE LIKE A ROCKSTAR, TOO?

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

HAVE YOU EVER SHED BLOOD ONSTAGE IN THE NAME OF ROCK?

"A camera light fell on my head. At the time it didn't hurt too much, but then I felt this warm rush of liquid down my face and blood was pouring out of my head. I'd never felt blood pour like that – it was flowing out like crazy and it was all over my hands, my face, my chest, my hair. I was a little concerned that my skull was showing because of the amount of blood."

WHAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE FOR A DARE?

"I used to be a big advocate of trespassing. I just like breaking into cemeteries or old houses that are supposed to be haunted. Probably the stupidest one was when some friends and I broke into this haunted ship in Long Beach, California. We got down to the steerage and the boiler room, and it was seriously creepy. Lots of horror movies start out like that, but I used to love it, and I'd probably still do it if I had more free time."

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURED DRINKING GAME?

"We play King's Cup every night on tour. It was actually taught to us by Escape The Fate. It's a card game – each card you pull has its own command, and if you draw a King, you can pour any alcohol you want into the cup. The person who draws the last King has to down the cup. If you ask Escape The Fate, they would tell you that I am legendary."

We downed a shandy once. Don't hear us bragging about it…

ON YOUR OWN MUSIC...

IN THE VIDEO FOR ANGEL EYES, WHAT DOES CHRIS MOTIONLESS HAVE IN HIS BRIEFCASE?

"The human hearts of his former girlfriends. Shooting that video was the most brilliant, beautiful two days of my life. A lot of people were involved, and you can really tell all the passion and love that went into it. All my best friends were extras, my mom was there… although not for the sex scene I did with Chris! I sent her away and that was a closed set, but, even so, it was hard to keep a straight face."

Correctamundo. But we're deducting a point for poking fun at Chris Motionless' simulated sex performance

WHICH NEW YEARS DAY SONG APPEARED IN THE VIDEO GAME SAINTS ROW?

"Ready, Aim, Misfire. I'm a big gamer, but when that came out we had the most random people coming out to our shows – huge tough guys who played Saints Row. It got to the point where you could more or less recognise who'd gotten into the band through that game."

The Saints Row T-shirts they had on were probably a giveaway, too…

WHICH SONG TITLE LINKS VICTIM TO VILLAIN AND TURBONEGRO'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALBUM?

"Oh, I have no idea, I don't really know too much about Turbonegro. There's a Simon & Garfunkel connection, too? (*Sings*) '*Hello darkness my old friend*'. Is that it?"

Yup, you both ripped off a Simon & Garfunkel lyric

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ULTIMATE NEW YEAR'S EVE?

"I'd spend it at Disneyland, on the rides with all my friends and a bunch of alcohol. I'm not sure that's strictly allowed, but I've never been caught yet and I've been going there for a long time (*laughs*). The bigger problem might be not hurling, which I've done before after drinking and going on the teacup ride. That's basic knowledge 101 – don't drink and go on the teacups!"

Nothing says "Bow down before me, I am a rock'n'roll legend!" like a trip to Disneyland

ROB ZOMBIE ASKS YOU TO DESIGN HIS NEXT HAUNTED HOUSE, WHAT THEME DO YOU GO FOR?

"The Inquisition; medieval torture. I actually worked at America's first haunted theme park, which is Hallowe'en Haunt at Knott's Scary Farm in Buena Park, California. It started in 1973 and all others are just copycats. I've worked as a scarer there and it's one of my favourite things to do."

Yeah, well we heard that one was actually a copycat of our uncle Roy's Fear Farm in Preston. So there!

SUPPOSE YOU WERE A HORROR MOVIE VILLAIN – WHAT WOULD YOUR WEAPON OF CHOICE BE?

"I wanna say a chainsaw, but that would just be too messy. I think I'd be more of a psychological killer, so I'd poison them slowly over time. I'd befriend my victims and then reveal that I'd been poisoning them right before they died. I'd be a mean and emotionally manipulative killer."

We always take a variety of antidotes before we eat/drink anything. Better luck next time, Ash

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A GHOST?

"I've been to a lot of haunted places and I have experienced some weird things. We were at the Winchester [Mystery House] mansion in San Jose and we saw a door open and close itself. We played The Rave in Milwaukee, and that venue is *very* haunted. We were in the basement where the dressing room is and I could hear a load of kids talking through one of the vents. It sounded like a playground and I thought maybe the doors had been opened, but when I went upstairs there was no-one there. I've definitely experienced some things, but never an overt ghost in a Ghostbusters style."

A simple 'no' would have sufficed

"I JUST LIKE BREAKING INTO HAUNTED CEMETERIES"
ASH COSTELLO

THE VERDICT

SHE'S NOT QUITE AS EVIL AS WE'D HOPED, BUT THIS IS STILL AN EXCELLENT EFFORT IF YOU ASK US…

SCORE 93%

THE LEADERBOARD

1	**LEMMY** MOTÖRHEAD	99%
1	**OZZY OSBOURNE** BLACK SABBATH	99%
1	**ROB HALFORD** JUDAS PRIEST	99%
4	**ICE-T** BODY COUNT	97%
5	**MATT SORUM**	97%
6	**GENE SIMMONS** KISS	96%
7	**ALICE COOPER**	95%
8	**SHIFTY SHELLSHOCK** CRAZY TOWN	95%
9	**ASH COSTELLO** NEW YEARS DAY	93%
10	**SATCHEL** STEEL PANTHER	92%

71	**CHARLIE SIMPSON** FIGHTSTAR	65%
72	**BOB MOULD** HÜSKER DÜ/SUGAR	64%
73	**AUSTIN CARLILE** OF MICE & MEN	61%

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